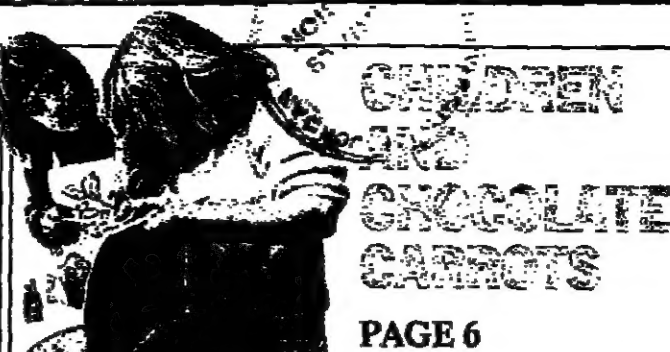




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AMERICA'S BLACK ICON
Walter Moseley
at the NFT
PAGE 37

Euroscptics attacked as 'doom merchants'

Santer accused of interfering in the election

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

JACQUES SANTER was accused of intrusion into British politics yesterday when he attacked Euro-sceptic "doom merchants" who were intent on demeaning Europe's successes.

Railing against "unjustified and misplaced" outbursts of Euroscepticism, the European Commission President also criticised those who tried to score cheap points by caricaturing EU legislation and institutions.

His remarks — clearly prompted in part by the Conservative advertisement showing Tony Blair sitting on Helmut Kohl's knee — were immediately interpreted by Labour and the sceptics as domestic interference. But John Major seized on them as evidence of the threat posed to Britain by those seeking greater integration at the Amsterdam summit in June.

In his speech, delivered in English to an audience in Amsterdam, Mr Santer challenged the sceptics: "Those who criticise, do they know what they are talking about? Do they have an equally stimulating alternative? If so, what is it?"

"Do these doom merchants want us to step backwards towards a Europe only composed of simple trading arrangements? Even the countries which in the Fifties wanted to go no further than a European free trade association have now virtually all opted for the benefits of European Union membership — and for good reason."

Mr Santer's original text is



Santer: text trimmed out of "diplomacy"

understood also to have contained a strong criticism of the Kohl-Blair advertisement, but he left it out at the last moment in the interests of diplomacy. He need hardly have bothered. Although he claimed that his speech to the Dutch Association of European Journalists was aimed at sceptics everywhere, Mr Major was happy to accept that the Tories were the target. It is also understood, however, that Mr Santer has been irritated by Labour, whose line and language has sometimes matched Tory Eurosceptic rhetoric.

And last night Labour dis-

ELECTION '97
Labour is also guilty of blurring the choices facing Britain?
— Peter Riddell, page 14

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Santer's remark that more majority voting would avoid countries getting trapped in a "vicious circle of paralysis", Mr Major said: "I disagree. Unlike the Labour leader, I will retain our vetoes. If it is right for Britain I will keep my feet on the brakes. Mr Blair would go to Amsterdam and put his foot on the accelerator to a federal Europe."

The Prime Minister's aides said that he was relieved that Mr Santer had spoken out at such a crucial time. "It's given him a target with which he believes he can unite the whole party. None of us wants the sort of integration that Jacques Santer is proposing."

Malcolm Rifkind hammered home the message, claiming that Mr Santer's vision was "disturbingly similar" to Mr Blair's, offering no end to the process of integration.

In his speech, Mr Santer said: "We have only one option: to move on." Already, inflation rates and interest rates were low, budget deficits falling and growth prospects improving, with a convergence of national economic and budgetary policies never stronger. It was not a bad performance, he said.

Chirac calls early election

President Chirac has called an election on May 25 and June 1 in an attempt to win solid backing for his Government as it makes major decisions on European int-

egration, especially the switch to a single currency. After announcing the date of the election, M Chirac telephoned Chancellor Kohl of Germany Page 19



Katy Parker practises for the international event and, left, the 4 ft 8 ins schoolgirl who began playing standing on a box

England international is only 12

By Andrew Longmore



MAY Day will be a day of reckoning for more than just political parties: Katy Parker of Preston, Lancashire, will, at the age of 12 years and 144 days, become the youngest English athlete ever to play in a world championships.

Parker, daughter of the former European champion, Jill Hammersley and a pupil at Kirkham Grammar School, will partner Michael Chan, 13, in the mixed doubles at the world table tennis championships, which begins with the team event in Manchester on Thursday. At 5 ft 2 in and 4 ft 8 ins, she will also be one of the smallest competitors. She

began playing table tennis at the age of six, standing on a box to see above the table, and won national championships at under-10, under-11 and under-12.

"She's level headed and a clever player," Carole Moore, chairman of the junior selection committee of the English Table Tennis Association, said. "I'm sure she will give a good account of herself."

Parker's parents support her selection for the championships. Both are aware of the dangers of burn-out, which prompted the tennis prodigy, Jennifer Capriati, at 14 years and 90 days the youngest competitor in the modern era at the All England Championships, to drop out of the game temporarily.

"A lot of kids who are pushed into playing, give up," Parker's mother said. "It's up to her how much she plays. I'm not worried that she will be frightened by the occasion. We've said to her: 'You're there for experience.'"

Fu Ming Xia became the youngest official gold medalist in Olympic history when she won the 10-metre platform dive in Barcelona in 1992 at the age of 12.

Child prodigy, page 54

Labour 'tried to gag union chief

Union leader John Edmonds told the Scottish TUC yesterday that he had been advised by the Labour hierarchy not to attend the conference.

The leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union told STUC members: "It was suggested to me that I might plead some other engagement, rather than come to Glasgow." Page 9

Thousands gain £1,400 windfall

Investors and borrowers with the Alliance & Leicester made around £1,400 a head yesterday when the former building society floated on the stockmarket.

In the first day's dealings, the shares soared to 566½p, 9 per cent above the highest forecasts Page 29

Election day alert after IRA phone blitz on London

By Michael Evans and Mark Henderson

A HUGE intelligence and policing operation is under way to stop the IRA disrupting polling on May 1. Measures already being taken were given a sense of urgency by the chaos the terror group caused in London and the South East during yesterday's morning rush-hour. Road, rail, Underground and air services were severely curtailed by security alerts — but no bombs were found.

A special co-ordinating committee with senior representatives from Scotland Yard, MI5, the Cabinet Office and other government departments is now working at full stretch to try to "predict, prevent and stop" any IRA action to prevent people voting. Security sources said that every measure "bar putting tanks on the streets" was under consideration.

Yesterday's disruption in the capital, with traffic gridlock, came after a series of coded telephone warnings. Four mainline London railway stations — Paddington, King's Cross, St Pancras and Charing Cross — were shut for several hours. Gatwick and Luton airports were closed for hours and Stansted airport briefly. Terminal Three at Heathrow was also affected.

MI5's counter-Irish terrorism branch has been circula-

ting the latest secret intelligence to Scotland Yard and other police forces in the country, ensuring that no one in authority is in any doubt about the seriousness of the present IRA threat. Security sources also issued a warning that, although the current campaign was focusing on causing chaos on roads and railways, there remained a strong possibility that the terrorists would switch tactics and attempt another "spectacular" bomb attack.

The Home Office said that a law allowing for a second day of polling in the event of riot could be used to extend the election, but it will take legal advice. The Representation of the People Act 1983 gives a constituency's presiding officer the power to order returned polling the following day in the event of a "riot or open violence" at a polling station. There is no law to cover any terrorist disruption at polling stations.

MI5 and the police are trying not to give the impression that they have received intelligence of a specific IRA plot to disrupt polling. However, there is perceived to be sufficient "general" intelligence material to mount a special effort for May 1.

Travel chaos, page 2

Laurel and Hardy brought in to do battle for Labour

By Our Political Editor

LAUREL AND HARDY join the election today in the guise of the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Labour is portraying John Major and Kenneth Clarke as Stan and Ollie to illustrate its claim that Britain has sunk to 21st place in a "world prosperity league".

The advertisement in *The Times* with its caption "Another fine mess" echoes a very similar cartoon drawn by the newspaper's political cartoonist, Peter Brookes.

A thief? It's like all these things," says Brookes. "There's no such thing as an original idea. I also once did a cartoon of Blair and Prescott as Laurel and Hardy. Both these pairs lend themselves to that kind of caricature."

"Curiously, I also did a drawing of a double-headed John Major on an ECU and

Labour did that poster of a double-headed Major on tax. The first time you think, oh that's an interesting coincidence. The second time you wonder if they really are keeping an eye on what cartoonists are drawing."

Marion Cubin of the Laurel and Hardy Museum in Ulverston, Cumbria, said the pair would have enjoyed seeing their image used in this way. They are no strangers to the political arena: one sticker at the museum reads "Maggie Thatcher does the work of two men — Laurel and Hardy".

Today they are being used to reinforce Gordon Brown's interpretation of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development figures on national income per head, which he says shows that Britain has slumped down what Labour calls the "world

prosperity league". The Shadow Chancellor says that since 1979 Britain has been overtaken by Italy, Japan, Finland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Ireland.

The Paris-based think-tank is generally considered the definitive authority on international economic comparisons, but the figures must be taken with a pinch of salt (Anatole Kaletsky writes).

Most economists regard countries whose per capita GDPs are within 10 per cent of one another as having essentially the same standard of living. On this basis, Britain is broadly in the same league as France, Italy, Sweden, Holland and most other European countries. It is, however, clearly behind Germany, Austria and Belgium and far behind America, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Norway.



Labour's "Stan" Major and "Ollie" Clarke and Peter Brookes's 1994 cartoon version

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RSPCA's biggest bequest contested by widow cut out of the will

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE RSPCA is being challenged in court by the widow of an Australian businessman who decided to leave £8 million to the charity days before his death.

Leon D. Richardson, a dog-lover and well-known financial commentator who had survived kidnapping, atomic bomb tests and

corruption charges, rewrote his will nine days before dying of a heart attack in Hong Kong in May 1995, aged 77.

Margie Richardson, 76, his wife of 40 years, from whom he had separated in 1994, launched a legal action in the Hong Kong High Court yesterday over her late husband's fortune.

Mrs Richardson contends that her husband was suffering from

"morbid jealousy" and was of unsound mind when he scrapped his original will, in which everything was left to her.

According to Mrs Richardson's writ, her husband's delusions led him to accuse her of infidelity and claims that she hired gangsters to kill him. The writ says that Mr Richardson expressed the view in a letter dated February 24, 1995, that she had behaved with "infamous,

heinous, sinning, fiend-like, immoral depravity".

Yesterday John Scott, QC, for Mrs Richardson, said that the couple had enjoyed a deeply loving relationship but Mr Richardson began to suffer from "morbid jealousy" in the last months of his life. Letters written by Mr Richardson to relatives "showed quite clearly this poor man to have been a lonely, paranoid and delusional

soul at the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995", Mr Scott told the court.

Michael Thomas, QC, for the executors of the will, denied that Mr Richardson was suffering from any mental disability when he signed the will. Friends and colleagues of the businessman say he had suffered from a chronic heart condition and was under stress from the recent break-up with his

wife when he died. Mrs Richardson had received more than £2 million from her husband after they parted.

According to the RSPCA yesterday, Mr Richardson kept Newfoundland dogs and a poodle which he tinted with a pink rinse.

A spokeswoman said: "If we were to receive the whole £8 million, then I think it would be a big legacy ever. It would be a

marvellous thing for animal welfare in the UK and abroad... and would cover the cost, for instance, of running just one of our seven animal hospitals for eight years."

The RSPCA spends some £40 million a year in running investigations, mounting prosecutions, in veterinary treatment and in housing sick animals.

The case is expected to last ten days.

Rapist who plotted against celebrities is sent to Rampton

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN-hating psychopath who planned to stalk and rob famous women, including the actress Fiona Fullerton, was sent yesterday to Rampton high-security mental hospital indefinitely.

Rodney Barnes, 31, who became known as the Mayfair Rapist, raped a West End croupier and robbed seven women at gunpoint during a six-week period beginning on his thirtieth birthday in March last year. Police found a list of 30 targets including Miss Fullerton, star of the television series *The Chancer*, as well as the former wife of a comedian and other women celebrities he had traced through electoral registers.

When caught on May 14, he told police the robberies were "a game plan" to raise money for a real gun so he could murder his former wife, mother, former mother-in-law, and stepmother.

Barnes, from South Ockendon, Essex, suffered from a psychopathic disorder and a schizophrenic-related condition, the Old Bailey was told. A Rampton psychiatrist described him as "one of the most dangerous men I have seen in my professional career". Barnes was being



Barnes: "game plan" was four murders

hunted by eight police forces while he targeted lone women living around the M25. Driving a stolen car, he threatened them with an air pistol that resembled a real firearm.

He admitted 15 offences including rape, kidnap, indecent assault, seven robberies, theft and firearms possession. His victims sat in the public gallery as Judge Boal, QC, was told that the 32-year-old Mayfair croupier tried to commit suicide after her four-hour ordeal, in which she was kidnapped in a Mayfair car park, driven around London in her own car, forced to have sex without a condom and to wash away the evidence.

Ten days later he tricked his

way into a Finnish businesswoman's hotel room in central London, forced her to strip and told her: "I'm going to rape you" before she screamed and he fled. Other robberies were carried out in Weybridge, Surrey; Ilford, Essex; and Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. Police found a list of potential victims in Bournemouth, London, Berkshire and Manchester, where his former wife lived after escaping from their violent marriage.

He showed little remorse, the court was told, and objected to the presence of a woman police officer. He complained of hearing voices in his head during the robberies and of being in a trance-like state. Judge Boal said: "You struck terror into the hearts of your victims and no doubt put countless other women in fear of becoming your next victim. The medical and emotional consequences on some of your victims is incalculable."

Detective Inspector David Hills, of the Central London major investigation pool, said Barnes had got "reasonably close" to Miss Fullerton and to other women on his list. "Had he had the time, I think he would have got round to them," he said.

A spokesman for Miss Fullerton, 40, said last night: "She was aware of this man at the time. She is delighted that he has been put behind bars and is no longer a danger."

Barnes's stepmother, Drusilla Smith, 53, said he could never accept his mother walking out on him when he was six months old. "When he was 18 he tracked her down, but she still didn't want to know. He has used this as his excuse over the years, but there comes a point when you can't carry on blaming your early life for what you are getting up to," she said.



George shared a bed with Brandon in squats

Musician sues Boy George over gay sex claim

By A STAFF REPORTER

ROCK musician Kirk Brandon admitted in court yesterday that he shared a bed with Boy George — who he knew fancied him — but denied the homosexual singer ever made a pass at him.

Brandon, who married his Danish wife two years ago and has a baby daughter, said he had slept with the former Culture Club singer at various squats, when he could not get home after a night's clubbing in the early 1980s.

However, George (real name George O'Dowd), who dressed and behaved as an effeminate homosexual at the time, never laid a hand on him. At the High Court, George's counsel, Patrick Moloney, suggested the blond frontman of Spear of Destiny and Theatre of Hate "crossed the line" in this one relationship and engaged in homosexual activity with someone he thought of almost as a girl.

"I suggest that when you were in bed with Boy George, various homosexual acts took place," Mr Moloney said.

Mr Brandon replied: "I



Kirk Brandon with his wife Christina and their daughter yesterday

would take this moment to categorically deny every single one of those."

Mr Moloney said: "Furthermore, certainly when you were with Mr O'Dowd's friends, if not yours, the two of you behaved in an affectionate manner, embracing, holding hands, as two homosexual lovers would."

Mr Brandon replied: "I would say no to that, sir." He told Mr Justice Douglas Brown that the alleged affair, detailed in George's 1995 autobiography, *Take It Like A Man*, was "a total lie".

Mr Brandon, 40, of East Dulwich, southeast London, is suing Boy George, book publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, Virgin Records and

EMI Virgin Music for malicious falsehood over the book and a CD, *Cheaps and Beauty*, which contained a song about him entitled *Unfinished Business*.

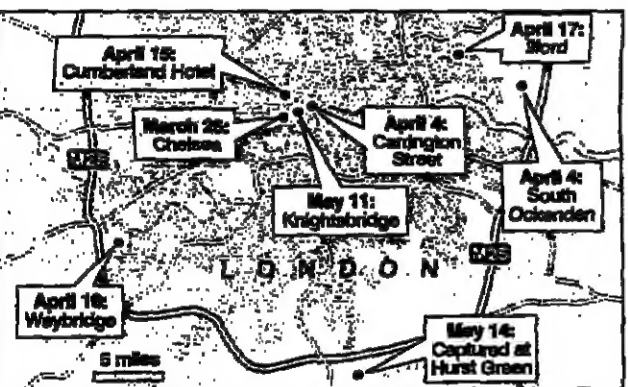
He says they damaged his family and business associates at a crucial stage in his career, when he was trying to get back to the top after two years of illness.

Mr Brandon said that when he first met George at The Blitz club in 1980, before he became famous, he thought he was "very strange". It was clear he was a homosexual who liked wearing women's makeup and outrageous clothes. Mr Moloney showed the court photographs in which Mr Brandon and

George were lying together on a bed "having a cuddle".

He said he believed that George had tried to "out" him as a homosexual in revenge for his imagined rejection and as a strategy to boost sales of his book and CD. "Unbeknown to me, in the midst of his wealth, his obsession for me turned into something bitter, some might call it evil, a grudge. He believed I had dumped him. Perhaps somewhere in his drug problems, or whatever, his hatred focused on me... some years later revenge became a cleverly calculated possibility. He wrote his book and wrote of the relationship he really imagined he had had."

The hearing continues.



Injury time in race with Robbie Fowler

By A STAFF REPORTER

A TAXI driver broke both arms when he ran into a wall at the end of a school's first race for fathers that also involved Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool and England footballer. Brian Comer, 39, denied he desperately tried to beat the star forward and lost control.

Mr Comer is suing the governors of St Patrick's RC Primary School, Tooteth, Liverpool, for damages, alleging negligence. Adrian Lyon, for the prosecution, claimed yesterday that there was no track and no finishing line and the school owed a duty of care to Mr Comer.

Mr Fowler told the court he

was an old boy of the school which his younger brother and cousins attended. He said he had been invited to take part in the race on July 14, 1994, and agreed as a bit of fun.

He said he wanted to win but slipped at the start and finished by running up the wall at the finish, which he thought was the finishing line.

Asked by the judge whether he thought the other fathers were keen to beat him, Mr Fowler said: "No one said anything about someone especially wanting to win the race."

The case continues.

Father beat up child molester

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN ANGRY father who bit off the earlobe of a man who molested his 10-year-old daughter wept as he walked free from court yesterday.

The 40-year-old stormed round to John Wane's home, swore at him and repeatedly kicked and punched him in the head and body, knocking him unconscious.

As Wane lay motionless on the floor, his attacker, described in court as an "exemplary and hard-working employee", chewed off his earlobe and spat it into a fireplace. Later he told police: "He had been interfering with my daughter. I will kill him."

Wane, of Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, suffered a broken nose and shoulder, and extensive bruising. He

needed plastic surgery on his ear.

Wane, 41, had groped the girl while he was drunk. Earlier this month Wane was jailed for 12 months for indecent assault after forcing the girl to relive her ordeal in the witness box. At Manchester Crown Court yesterday the girl's father — who cannot be named to protect her identity — pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm and sobbed as he was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence.

Judge Timothy Mort told him: "It is difficult to know what the reaction of a parent might be in such circumstances. Were I to deprive you of your liberty that little girl would suffer the trauma of not

only the attack and the ordeal of having to relive it in the witness box, but also to find her father had gone to jail."

"The extreme provocation of this incident make these circumstances wholly exceptional," he added.

Earlier the court was told that the girl was the man's only surviving child. John Chaplin, for the prosecution, said Wane indecently assaulted the youngster last September after drinking in pubs in Stalybridge all day.

Mark Benson, for the defence, said: "This was extreme provocation involving a man acting out of emotional anger and distress. He acted out of character and he is ashamed of his behaviour and accepts it was wrong."

Judge asks victim to remove make-up

By PAUL WILKINSON

A JUDGE halted a court case so that a young mother could remove her make-up to show the scars from a beating by a former boyfriend.

Judge Grills then awarded £5,000 damages to Amanda Barrett, 29, who is too embarrassed to leave the home without carefully masking the results of the assault. After changing his spectacles to have a close look at the injuries, the judge told her: "I am surprised just how bad the scars are after seeing you without any make-up."

"I accept that the scars can be covered up with make-up, but we pass this way just once and the fact is she will always

carry them. For a young woman this is of considerable significance."

He had ordered an "ad-journment" in her claim for pain and trauma at York County Court, so that she could remove her lipstick, foundation, blusher, eye shadow and mascara.

Mark Rogers, 25, a kitchen fitter, attacked her in her York home in March 1995, as her two children slept upstairs. In March last year, he was given 120 hours' community service for assault and criminal damage. He was then ordered to pay £200 compensation for smashing her stereo system and £250 for her injuries.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Chocolate carrot could help tomorrow's adults beat cancer

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHOCOLATE-flavoured carrots went on sale yesterday as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow.

Backed by the Cancer Research Campaign and packed by Iceland Foods, the carrots are aimed at the choosy palates of children who refuse to eat vegetables and thus fail to absorb enough vitamin C to help to provide protection against cancer in later life. The range also includes cheese-and-onion cauliflower, pizza-flavoured sweetcorn and peas that taste like baked beans.

They have been tested and approved by panels of children aged five to thirteen in Wales and the North West. The tasters rejected bubble-gum broccoli, toffee-apple sweetcorn and prawn-cocktail cauliflower but a second generation of the Wacky Veg range will be launched in June for children who are not tempted by the first offerings. The idea came from Professor Gordon McVie, Director-General of the cancer campaign.

after a University of Strathclyde study showed that, increasingly, mothers were not bothering to cook vegetables for children, who also refuse to eat them in school canteens.

The only day in the year when children ate enough vegetables was Christmas, he said, when they were part of a festive meal cooked with more care and served with more sauces. "For me, it is an experiment in changing behaviour patterns. It is a humorous experiment and

certainly wacky but it is in no way frivolous," he added.

"Health professionals can tell people to stop smoking, or to use strong sun cream protection but the advice is often ignored. It is the same with vegetables. A third of cancers are due to diet and the first hurdle is to get children to eat any vegetable at all.

"Every parent knows that fresh fruit and vegetables are good for children but they just don't serve them. Children are cocking their noses up at the advice, so what can we do to

get them to alter their eating patterns? I thought of all the supermarket aisles packed with different-flavour crisps, and thought that if children liked eating potatoes in this way, it might be possible with other vegetables."

The challenge was taken up two months ago by Malcolm Walker, chairman of Iceland, who admitted he originally thought it would be no more than a good PR stunt. "In fact it is turning out to be a very serious business indeed," he said. "We have made tons of

them and this is going to be a big seller. We expect to turn over around £500,000 in the next three months. These flavours may sound revolting to adults, but children like them.

"Chefs like Nico may be a bit sniffy but that has nothing to do with it. Adults usually aren't thrilled by what their children eat but if this gets them to eat their vegetables I don't see it as a great problem. It is better to eat good vegetables tasting of chocolate than not to eat vegetables at all."

The range sells at 99p for a 1lb bag compared with £1.29 for carrot-flavoured carrots. "We think the pricing is right and affordable for parents who care about children's health," Mr Walker said.

Two techniques have been used for the flavours: the carrots and sweetcorn come with granules of the flavour mixed with the vegetables, while the cauliflower and peas are coated with a seasoned sauce. Iceland says the frozen vegetables retain all their vitamin C, while fresh ones lose it rapidly after picking.



Christopher Coates, 3, conducts his own trial at Shenley Fields Nursery School in Birmingham

It's out of this world, says young test panel

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

WHAT, my son James wanted to know, are these chocolate carrots for? "Are they for people in space?"

Quite. But he judged them "really nice". "It's just like having hot drinking chocolate. I can taste the carrots though. They seem really delicious, not like the carrots you give us."

That seemed to be the vital ingredient for James, 11, and his brother Charles, 6, although the latter was not so convinced. Nor was he too keen on the baked bean-flavoured peas. "You know I don't like peas, and I don't like baked beans either."

Courageously, James pushed spoonfuls into his mouth and beamed. "It's just like peas with baked bean sauce. But I think it would have been better if they had just used tomato sauce."

He summed up: "I think they are very nice, but don't bother to get any more. I couldn't eat them with anything else. Who would eat this chocolate stuff with chicken or lamb chops?"

Crime against taste, say chefs

LEADING chefs' reactions to the child-friendly vegetables ranged from disbelief to sadness.

Marco Pierre White, a father of three who runs The Restaurant Marco Pierre White at the Hyde Park Hotel, a Michelin three-star establishment, said: "Not wishing to comment says everything about these products. I think it is better to bribe children than this — say they

can go to the park if they eat their food. These products will destroy children's future eating habits."

Nico Ladenis, of the Michelin three-star Chez Nico at 90 Park Lane, who has two grown-up daughters, said: "I cannot conceive of chocolate going with carrots but if they have to use weird combinations they are doing it the wrong way. The colour alone must be horrid: people eat

with the eye, it's the first sense. I don't know how children would be attracted to such a messy thing."

Albert Roux, chef of the Michelin two-star Le Gavroche, who has two children and two grandchildren, said: "It is criminal to do this to children's palates. If you want a child to eat vegetables you have to talk to them about flavour. They must identify the flavour of each vegetable."

Leading article, page 23

"Because it meowed too much."



This was the "excuse" the owner gave for trying to drown his cat.

It meowed too much. He'd thought of giving the cat to a friend, but decided it would be "less hassle" to drown it.

So he put it in a basket and threw it from a bridge into the local canal.

The basket hit the bridge wall and burst open, allowing the cat to escape.

From the basket, that is.

It managed to swim for more

than half an hour in the freezing water, during which time it meowed quite a lot.

It was finally rescued and taken to an RSPCA hospital, where it was treated for exhaustion, shock and fluid on the lungs.

It died a week later. The owner was fined £300 and given a 3 year conditional discharge.

Astonishingly, he was not banned from keeping animals and now owns another cat.

Despite this kind of disappointment, the RSPCA never gives up.

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Council may dye canal to restore colour to fishing

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S oldest canal is to be dyed khaki or blue in an attempt to protect the fish from being plundered by cormorants before anglers have a chance to catch them.

Exeter City Council has devised the scheme because of growing complaints by fishermen who say the clarity of the water in the Exeter Ship Canal is spoiling their sport.

Jack Nott, the council's river and canal manager, said: "We are looking at using natural dyes to put in the canal on days before angling matches. This could make it easier for the anglers to catch fish and deter cormorants by making it harder for the birds to see their prey."

Until the 1960s coasters regularly used the canal, stirring up sediment and keeping the water muddy. Nowadays the water is crystal clear during winter, which has increased the number of fish being taken by cormorants.

Martin Rich, chairman of the council's leisure committee, said: "We have tried various other ways of increasing turbidity, such as dragging chains along the bottom of the canal and letting in muddy water from the nearby River Exe, but the effects were short-lived. The plan is to try the dyes out on a two-mile stretch of the canal most used by anglers but we still need to get approval from English Nature and other environ-

mental bodies because the canal flows through a site of special scientific interest."

Anglers said yesterday that more drastic action was needed to control cormorants. Paul Marks, membership trustee of the Exeter and District Angling Association, said: "Twenty years ago you rarely saw a cormorant on the canal but last December there were about 70 in permanent residence and each bird can catch about 2lb of fish a day. Culling is the only real solution."

Anglers want the Government to relax the legal protection given to cormorants and permit culling of the birds by fisheries managers. But ornithologists strongly oppose any change in the law. They blame the rapid growth of artificially stocked lakes and reservoirs for the increased number of cormorants.



The cormorant: greedy

Silent spring as cold halves bird numbers

GARDENS and woodlands are expected to be quieter places this spring (Nick Nuttall writes). Populations of many common birds have halved over the past year.

Experts believe the bitterly cold spring and early summer of 1996 made it impossible for many parent birds to feed their young because caterpillars and insect larvae were in short supply.

Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, which carries out the annual surveys, said: "I estimate that more than 40 million chicks

failed to appear over the eight species hit worst." All 24 widespread species surveyed by bird ringers at 120 sites produced fewer young. Worst sufferers are the long-tailed tit (55 per cent down), dunmox (48 per cent), wren (45), white-throat (44), blackcap (43), lesser whitethroat (39), sedge warbler (32) and robin (27).

The tree creeper, chaffinch, chiffchaff, blue tit, great tit, garden warbler and willow warbler declined by 27 to 18 per cent in the biggest widespread failure since the survey began in the early 1980s.

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Police officers known as The Syndicate showed suspect forged document, appeal court told

'Pressure and lies made Bridgewater man confess'

BY ADRIAN LEE

A GROUP of police officers known as The Syndicate used pressure and forgery to pressure an innocent man into confessing involvement in the shooting of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Opening the appeal by the Bridgewater Four against their convictions for the 1978 killing, Michael Mansfield, QC, said that police were intent on gaining an admission. His client, Patrick Molloy — who died in prison four years later — had denied involvement 30 times but he was isolated, refused access to a solicitor, questioned for hours and cracked after being shown a forged confession by another of the accused.

Mr Molloy was convicted of manslaughter, sentenced to 12 years and died aged 53. Three others — Vincent Hickey, now 44, his cousin Michael Hickey,



Carl Bridgewater

35, and James Robinson, 63 — served 18 years for the murder at Yew Tree Farm, near Stourbridge, West Midlands.

The three, free on bail, listened as Mr Mansfield outlined "serious flaws" in the case against Mr Molloy which hinged on his confession at Wombourne Police Station on December 10, 1978. The con-

fession, Mr Mansfield said, was "achieved by a combination of two forces — oppression and a carefully contrived strategy of deception". It could be laid at the door of a particular squad of officers from Regional Crime Squad number 4, based at Bilston.

Detective Inspector Jeffrey Turner headed the interrogation, Mr Mansfield said. Detective sergeants John Robbins and Dennis Walker, and detective constables Graham Leake and John Perkins, a team known by colleagues as The Syndicate, were involved. Other Staffordshire officers may have turned a blind eye, Mr Mansfield said. They included Detective Chief Inspector Westley Watson.

Some of the 20 interviews of Mr Molloy, lasting 31 hours, were conducted in cells. "It was intended to create an atmosphere of isolation and claustrophobia," Mr Mansfield said. Many had not been

recorded or details subsequently lost. "There is a serious question mark over what was really going on in that police station in order to contrive and construct a situation where, in the end, Mr Molloy did what the officers wanted. The approach of the police was to plainly and bluntly disbelieve the denials and assert from the beginning that he was guilty, although perhaps he did not pull the trigger."

Mr Molloy was left with the impression that he had no option other than confession. Detective Constable Robbins in 1992 that he "would pull the handle on these men, open the trap door and do it with a bacon sandwich in his hand".

During interviews, Mr Molloy's pauses were interpreted by police as guilt. They hinted that Vincent Hickey had confessed and finally set a trap. A forged confession by



James Robinson, left, free on bail, is greeted outside court by Gerry Conlon, one of the Guildford Four.

Hickey was shown to Mr Molloy. The document later disappeared but scientific tests this year proved its existence when slight imprints from the forgery were found on Mr Molloy's confession. Writing on the forgery matched that of

detectives Perkins, now dead, and Leake.

According to the officers, at 3.40pm Molloy "dropped his head, sighed and said 'I was there at the farm'; he dictated a confession between 4pm and 4.20pm". Mr Mansfield said it

was almost impossible for the 600-word confession to have been recorded in 20 minutes and there were remarkable similarities between the initial verbal confession and that dictated while under caution. Six sentences were identical,

and 23 of 68 clauses. Dr Brian Butterworth, of the University of London, who studies the psychology of language, concluded that the chances of these occurring independently were less than one in a million. The appeal continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kwik Save blackmailer is jailed

A blackmailer who threatened to contaminate goods from Kwik Save with razor blades, needles, mercury and rat's blood has been jailed for six years. Gerard Farrell, 40, from Liverpool, pleaded guilty to his part in a £500,000 ransom plot with threats of arson attacks if the demands were not acknowledged on the National Lottery show, Preston Crown Court was told. Farrell's demand note read: "Mystic Meg must say, 'I see a windfall for Scorpio'."

'Joyride' victims

Five teenagers killed in a stolen car that crashed at Crumpsall, Manchester, were identified as Sean Cosgrove, 16, Jonathan Openshaw, Peter Warburton and Sean O'Neill, all 17, and Jamie Irving, 18.

Not guilty plea

Tracey Andrews, 27, accused of the roadside murder of her fiancé, Lee Harvey, in December, appeared at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday formally to enter a not guilty plea. Bail was renewed.

Circus death

A circus acrobat has died in hospital at Newport, Gwent, a week after breaking his neck in a back somersault from the shoulders of a colleague. Aziz Elmeslahy, 23, was touring with Gerry Cottle's circus.

Shelling out

Linda Southern, 45, from Manchester, has spent £80 having identity microchips inserted under the skin of her tortoisés. "At this time of year they'll dash off and try to mate with anything," she said.

Protection force officer held over wife's death

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A ROYAL protection officer was arrested yesterday by detectives investigating the murder of his wife.

PC Michael Coulton, 52, who patrolled Buckingham Palace as part of his duties with Scotland Yard's SO4 division, was taken from his home in Woking, Surrey, to Bracknell police station, where he was interviewed throughout the day.

His wife, Patricia, 52, was stabbed to death on January 10 in her car in the grounds of Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, where she had worked as a care assistant for eight years. Her body was found lying across the driver's seat of her white Renault 19 with her legs dangling outside the vehicle.

PC Coulton attended his wife's funeral last Thursday. Detectives hunting the killer have recently been to America to question witnesses and take statements.

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said a 52-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the Patricia Coulton murder. He was being interviewed by officers from the force.

The couple, who have two adult children, were first married in 1968. They divorced 15 years later, only to be reunited in 1986 and remarried two years ago. As well as his duties at Buckingham Palace, PC Coulton was one of the team responsible for security at the Duke of York's house, Sunninghill Park, about two miles from the murder scene. He reported his wife missing after she failed to return from an evening shift.

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مركز مكافحة السرطان

ELECTION 97

-9

'I had an MP in the back of my cab...'

The Cabbie en route to Westminster

Damian Whitworth - p10

What are the parties' policies on Europe?

Analysis - page 16

Campaigning a world away from Westminster

Ian Lang in Galloway

Matthew Parris - p15

Edmonds breaks Labour code of silence



Edmonds: critical of the Shadow Chancellor

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOHN EDMONDS became the first union leader to break ranks with the Labour Party yesterday, telling the Scottish TUC conference that he had been urged not to attend.

"You may have noticed some of us have not been doing too much public speaking in the last few weeks," the leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union said. "It was suggested to me that I might plead some other engagement, rather than come to Glasgow. But I have already washed my hair once this week."

He went on to attack Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor,

saying Labour's commitment to stick to Conservative spending plans for two years would not meet the wishes of the British public. Looking forward to "that day when the new government breaks free from the Tory shackles", Mr Edmonds said it could not come too early for him.

Until he spoke, the Labour leadership had been privately congratulating itself for managing successfully to dampen down potentially damaging moves by the STUC, especially over a national minimum wage. Broadcasters covering the conference said that Labour media managers had pressed them to downplay reports from the STUC in their news bulletins.

Asked later whether it was the

Labour leadership that had pressed him not to attend, Mr Edmonds declined to elaborate. But sources close to Mr Edmonds, whose relations with Tony Blair are poor, agree that only the most senior Labour figures would have tried to prevent him going to the STUC.

Other union leaders attending the conference said that they had received no approaches from Labour or anyone else not to attend the STUC. Rodney Bickerstaffe and Bill Morris, general secretaries of the Union public employees and TGWU transport workers' unions respectively, said that no pressure had been brought to bear on them.

The Labour leadership did enjoy one victory, however, when a resolution on the national minimum wage

was unexpectedly withdrawn by the Labour loyalist shopworkers' union, Usdaw. Mr Bickerstaffe had wanted to urge unions to submit to Labour's planned Low Pay Commission a formula for the wage to be set at half male median earnings, which would translate to an hourly rate of £4.42. Labour is insistent it will not set a rate ahead of the election.

The Labour leadership avoided a damaging revolt when union leaders failed to back a demand for the railways to be renationalised within the first term of a Labour government. But delegates endorsed a resolution backed by Aslef calling on a Labour government to honour its former commitment to a publicly owned and accountable system and

to establish "a clear timetable for the return of railway companies to public ownership". Labour dropped this commitment in its manifesto, which instead backed greater regulation for the railways.

Lew Adams, leader of the train drivers' union Aslef, told the conference that Labour should stick to its policy on rail privatisation agreed at last year's party conference. Clearly responding to perceived shifts on privatisation by Mr Blair, Mr Adams said he "expected" conference policy on the issue to be implemented by a Labour government.

"That is the policy that is acceptable to the party leadership, we were told. That is the policy we will expect to be implemented. This is

Aslef's bottom line. We are honest people who expect promises will be kept. We are democrats. We don't subscribe to mindless militancy, nor do we want favours. We want fairness." He added: "We have every right to expect that a party campaigning on the slogan 'Britain deserves better' and the next Prime Minister who pledges 'trust me' will deliver on their promises."

Earlier, a resolution calling for a repeal of anti-trade union laws and for unions to defy these laws was massively defeated, with no union battalions supporting it. Delegates voted instead for a legal right to recognition where there was "clear support" for this from the workforce, which is now Labour policy.

Prescott gives meaningless an entirely new meaning



John Prescott sees good omens everywhere. He could speak like other politicians if he felt like it. The punchline is that he doesn't need to, says Ben Macintyre

AFTER 33 days in orbit through 59 constituencies, John Prescott finally lost his remaining grip on conventional grammar yesterday, to the undisguised admiration of the voters of Notting Hill.

In a feat of political oratory unequalled during this election, Labour's Deputy Leader delivered a high-speed ten-minute speech in the middle of Portobello Road market that was seamless, terse and unfettered by syntax or, it seemed, the need to breathe.

Mr Prescott's address began with what appeared to be various augurs of Labour victory as witnessed during his marathon slog around the country: "In Swindon we had the RAF flypast they clearly know what's what in Grimsby we saw that comet Hale-Bopp or whatever when I came along Hyde Park I got the 21-gun salute must be someone's else's birthday come May the first I'm going to be dancing round that maypole with Tony Blair..."

Mr Prescott had said so many things in so many places that he now says one enormous thing in a single fantastic sentence. His multi-

lingual listeners, including West Indians, Moroccans, Bangladeshis and two bewildered French tourists, may be accustomed to hearing English rendered in a variety of ways, but Mr Prescott's torrent of campaign elision must have placed the language in an altogether new light.

Before his arrival in West London, Mr Prescott had become embroiled in the traffic jams caused by the IRA security alerts and was forced to scrap his first two engagements of the day, no doubt causing a critical build-up of rhetoric which, when it was eventually uncorked, exploded magnificently.

"That John Major he said John Prescott's only a bar steward isn't that terrible shows that the contempt that Mr Major has for ordinary people doing an ordinary job he even had a got at me syntax that's 'cos I sailed failed the 11-plus system they want to bring back there's the difference it's the education of for the many not the few..."

Flecks of spittle had begun to appear at the sides of Mr Prescott's mouth and a lesser man would have collapsed



The beat of a different drum: Prescott with Ram John Holder in Portobello Road market. Security delays had caused a critical build-up of rhetoric

long before from oxygen deprivation, but Labour's Deputy Leader was just getting into his three-legged stride.

"Is that the bear you know we met the headless chicken in Basilidon Basilidon remember that horrible night in Basilidon Doctor Mawhinney he's the only doctor make you sick just lookin' at 'im Doctor Mawhinney I got a message from you for you there aren't

any safe seats Tory seats that chicken's ten points ahead of Major there's already two parties two manifestos he had his birthday last week you know where he went the Happy Easter it's the only place that'll take his orders..."

Any politician who has been on the stump this long is likely to sound repetitive, but it is the singular virtue of Mr Prescott's unique approach to the

English language that he appears to be delivering every speech as if the words had only just occurred to him, or were being simultaneously translated from Chinese, perhaps through a tiny microphone implanted in his sideburns. His very lack of polish lends earnest believability.

I suspect that this effect, in which overlapping waves of

speech gradually drown out any specific meaning, is entirely intentional. Mr Prescott could probably sound as clinical as Jeremy Paxman if he wanted to, but from the plethora of disjointed phrases and slogans emerges a generalised sense of energy and outrage, from which the audience then picks what it wants, or can extract.

"I hope he can win, man,"

said Bernard Niles, a West Indian who came to Notting Hill in the 1950s. "We had too much of that Tory man, man."

Mr Prescott swerved over the finishing line with a last flourish: "On May first let's have you out we want some decency in politics."

Before going on a walk-about the West Indian sit-com actor Ram John "Pork Pie" Holder, he set to work on the

highly-polished oil drums of the Ebony Steel Trust, the steel band that had heralded his arrival with a rendition of *When the Saints go Marching in*. The eerily discordant plinking produced by Labour's Deputy Leader seemed wholly appropriate. Mr Prescott insisted he was playing a tune. "This is modern jazz, so you won't understand it," he told the crowd.

Irn Bru Lady drinks in admiration of Scottish voters

ONCE she called him her "Young Lochinvar", Sir Walter Scott's mythical knight, who carried the broadsword of Thatcherism from Downing Street to Scotland. Now she was back to help him to save his seat.

Baroness Thatcher came to Stirling yesterday to throw her weight behind Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, who is battling to save a fragile majority of 236 (boundary changes make this a notional figure). There was a time not so long ago when Tories in Scotland would have begged Central Office to keep her south of the border lest she cost them any more votes.

Now she is a secret weapon. But, like all secret weapons, the effect was unpredictable. What the voters of Stirling — or those who were close enough — witnessed yesterday, was as bizarre a public relations exercise as any in

this election. To see a posse of political reporters straining to detect what the former Prime Minister had to say about kitchen surfaces, whether she approved of the Spice Girls, or understood the significance of Irn Bru, is to see politics reduced to surrealism.

Let it be revealed that she appeared to endorse the Spice Girls as enthusiastically as they supported her. On being asked by a group of media students to sign the front cover of the Spice Girls' new book, *Girl Power*, she did so with a flourish. Asked what her reaction was to being called the first Spice Girl, she said: "I rather agree." Pressed on the subject, she said: came up with rather a good line: "Michael and I put as much spice into politics as the Spice Girls put into singing."

She would certainly have approved of Mel B's comment: "The strong will survive and

Once reviled over the border for the poll tax, Baroness Thatcher enjoyed a warm welcome as she campaigned in Stirling yesterday, Magnus Linklater reports

the wise excel." She might have been less certain about Emma's political credo: "I don't want to be a cutie. I want to be a hot sexy bitch." Baroness Thatcher's professions these days are more

royal than political, except that you can get closer to royalty. We were left to glean what she thought of marble top working surfaces. "We are going home," she said. "We want a new kitchen." Spin-

doctors were called on to interpret this, but even they confessed themselves stumped.

On to Safeway, where a middle-aged lady, seeing the police arrive, said: "They must be having trouble with shop-lifters." Caught by a roving microphone, the Baroness did deliver herself of one political comment. "I am here to support Michael Forsyth, and to support the Conservatives," she said. "We have done very

well for the whole of the United Kingdom in the last 18 years, and it didn't just happen. We made it happen." Mr Forsyth beamed.

Then it was down to some serious shopping. She collected carrots, top side of beef, half a leg of lamb and a pound of Scottish butter. She looked blankly, however, at the bottles of Irn Bru, Scotland's national drink. This she had plainly never heard of, and though this lapse alone might

in earlier days have lost Mr Forsyth his majority, no one seemed to mind. The woman who was once labelled public enemy No 1 in Scotland for introducing the poll tax, is now accorded something close to respect, if not admiration. It's amazing what the absence of power will do.

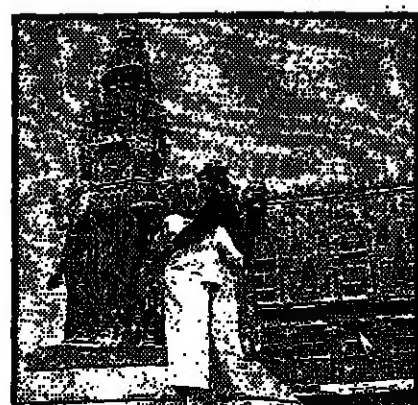
"She's here in the heart of Braveheart country," said Charles Archibald, 60, from Cumbernauld. "And you have to respect her. She comes over

as quite an attractive grandmother."

Finally, the bill, and this time she was not going to be caught out by the lack of a cheque guarantee card. To the admiration of reporters, she produced Scottish banknotes, humbling only when she appeared to have some difficulty in deciphering which was which. A £10 note and a fiver is not enough these days to meet a bill for £17.50. That's Thatcherism for you.

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Labour cabbie talking his way to the Commons

Damian Whitworth hails a driving force but just can't make him stop

It appeared that *The Times* had a scoop: a London cab driver who didn't like talking. Clive Efford, 38, is a cabbie and Labour candidate for Eltham, the 24th seat on Labour's hit list. Yet his staff replied to interview requests by insisting that he did not wish to share his opinions with readers of national newspapers. An investigation was launched.

A team was despatched yesterday to the party offices in Eltham, southeast London. Officials stopped short of denying all knowledge of their candidate, but said that he was out and they didn't know where he was. Given that the day was sunny and the general election was but ten days away, it seemed a safe bet that he was out canvassing.

Out in the suburban sprawl, a red rosette was spotted and followed. It led to a tower block from which, blinking into the sunlight, came a bearded fellow in a shiny suit and comfortable shoes: Mr Efford. *The Times*

introduced itself and he looked uncertain. He glanced at his canvassing team, he shifted from foot to foot, finally he shook hands. Tentatively, he opened his mouth and talked.

And talked. And talked. Rumours of the dumb cabbie had been exaggerated. Clive Efford could talk for Britain. A south London boy who grew up on the Old Kent Road, he became a cabbie about ten years ago after the family jewellery shop in Westminster closed — "victims of the first Tory recession". He also won a seat on Greenwich council.

He could talk about the NHS and youth unemployment until even fellow politicians flee, and come May 2 he will probably be paid to do so. Mr Efford trimmed the Tory majority to 1,666 in 1992. The man who won, Peter Bottomley, has now decamped to the safe seat of West Worthing.

Somebody, possibly the man who slammed the Labour office door hard in the face of *The Times*, has clearly told

Mr Efford to play down the cabbie side of things and play the serious politician. This is a shame, for conversational skills developed on the highways should carry him into Westminster, where it is believed he will be the first cabbie on the green benches.

His canvassing team tease him that once on a doorstep, they cannot get him away. And it is true. He tarried sometimes for 20 minutes, on one occasion with a woman who doesn't have a vote in the constituency but wanted to expound about the decline of the industrial infrastructure. "I always spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it. There are times when I've been left on the doorstep with people who have no intention of voting for me and probably take delight in taking up my time. But people don't want just a quick handshake and see you in five years' time."

Face to face, one to one, he is impressive. Unusually, he listens patiently to potential voters before hitting them with

well-oiled patter. An elderly woman who said she can't be bothered to vote was given a gentle ticking off. "Don't let them off the hook," he scolded and won her over.

"Cab drivers come from all walks of life. You are always going to have a variety of opinions coming at you. Some of them I would violently disagree with," he explained.

"I very rarely preach at people in the back of the taxi. But before the last election, I used to delight in picking up the odd Tory MP and berating them. I claim credit for getting an MP to vote against the poll tax. That was a long journey. If he wins, his cab will probably be sold to his sister, one of the first women cab drivers."

"When I am in the House of Commons, there will be plenty of people I will know who won't know me, because I was sitting in the front of the taxi," he said mischievously. "I'll ask them what they were doing when I picked them up that time."



"I spend a lot of time talking to people. I can't help it," Clive Efford meets Damian Whitworth, left

Paddy loses the hunk vote but passes ferret test

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

PADDY ASHDOWN, fresh from his weekend glimpse of his newborn grandson in France, was treated yesterday to a disconcerting view of politics from the next generation of voters.

During a visit to a primary school in west Cornwall, the Liberal Democrat leader was invited to look at a display put together by seven and eight-year-olds entitled "Government — what we think".

First to catch his eye was a contribution from Lucy McMahon, aged eight. "Only rich or hunky men should vote," she had written at the school in the village of Stithians. "I would only vote for rich or hunky men."

Mr Ashdown delivered a gentle rebuke to the Class 3 pupil. "What would you think if I said that only pretty girls could vote? You'd think it was rather rude, wouldn't you?"

Lucy was unabashed. Out of earshot of Mr Ashdown, she giggled wildly when a reporter asked if she thought the Liberal Democrat leader was rich and hunky. Pressed to reveal who did meet those criteria, she delivered the final, crushing blow: "Seb Coe."

Mr Coe is defending the seat of Falmouth and Camborne, which includes Stithians, for the Conservatives. He has a house in the village, which may go some

way towards explaining Lucy's admiration.

Also in the display was a joint resolution from Class 3: "We think there should be more people like Rolf Harris."

Class 3 was vague about the appeal of the Australian cartoonist, singer and presenter of the television programme *Animal Hospital*. "Because he's nice" and "Because he's funny" was the limit of their analysis. Perhaps the spin-doctors should give Rolf a ring.

Outside the school, Mr Ashdown — possibly with Mr Harris's animal antics in mind — made the most of an unexpected photo-opportunity with a ferret. The creature, called Beavis, was being walked by its owner, 12-year-old Penny George, and appeared on a wall behind Mr Ashdown's left shoulder as he was being interviewed by television reporters about Europe.

Ignoring a plea by one of his aides not to pick the ferret up, Mr Ashdown scooped it from the wall. "You're a lovely little beast, aren't you?" he said. "I don't think I've ever seen such a patient and docile ferret."

Mr Ashdown may have to rethink his claim, made on Sunday, that the Tory leadership contenders were fighting like ferrets in a sack.



Ashdown found himself outstripped by the Tories' Seb Coe in the race for a schoolgirl's admiration

Tories' share of vote hovers on 32%, say polls

THE Tories' "core" vote looks to be about 32 per cent despite being sorely tested at present.

All 28 national polls since the election was called have put the Conservative share at 31 per cent, plus or minus three percentage points. The party has held at this level despite splits over Europe, an unpopular Prime Minister, awkward and misguided advertising and campaigning, low support for their positions on key issues and manoeuvring by candidates to take over from John Major even before polling day.

Since the election was called, the Tories' average share has moved up from 29 to 32 per cent, not much in itself, but enough to reduce Labour's projected overall majority by more than 100 seats. That will not affect who goes to Downing Street, but is vital to the survival of 50 Tory candidates.

The "core" vote for Labour is 28 per cent, tested nearly to destruction in the 1983 election when the party was led by Michael Foot, the most unpopular leader since the war, and fought the worst organised campaign of any party in memory. By contrast, Labour's low point in this campaign has been 45 per cent.

The total "core" vote for all other British parties, including the Liberal Democrats, is about 22 per cent. This has varied in recent elections from 22 per cent in 1992 to the 28 per cent achieved in 1983. Others, including Liberal Democrats, are averaging 19 per cent so far in this campaign.

This leaves one voter in six as being the maximum level of undecideds in this, and most, elections. It is these voters, especially those living in marginal seats, that the campaign is about.

It is to the Tories' advantage to claim that "a third of the public have yet to make up

Bob Worcester says voters will be misled if they concentrate on Labour's lead in the polls

their minds", but they are kidding the public, and maybe themselves. At least half these "floating" voters will not turn out, as more than eight in ten people give pollsters their voting intention, though under two-thirds of the public (64 per cent) say they are certain to vote, the best indicator of turnout on May 1.

At the same stage of the 1992 election, about 72 per cent said they were certain to vote and final turnout was 78 per cent. On those figures, we can expect a turnout of 69 or 70 per cent on polling day. The lowest recent turnout was in 1983 when Margaret Thatcher had her biggest victory, a landslide of the scale suggested for Labour by recent polls.

The media misled themselves and the public by focusing on the Labour poll lead over the Tories instead of highlighting the figure that really counts, the Tory share of the vote. In 1992, the Conservatives won with a 43 per cent share. If they do not reach this level now, they lose; indeed, if they do not win as much as 39 per cent, Labour wins an overall majority.

The Liberal Democrats stand to get more seats than is implied by a statistical projection on a uniform national swing since they have become a regional party. Their "core" vote is in southern England, where 90 per cent of voters live in Conservative / Lib Dem marginals.

□ Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI.

AVERAGE OF POLLS

	Number polls	Con %	Lab %	LD %	Swing since 1992
Week starting March 17	3	29	53	12	15.8
Week starting March 24	3	30	50	14	13.8
Week starting March 31	8	30	53	12	15.2
Week starting April 7	9	32	48	14	12.6
Week starting April 14	5	32	48	15	12.1
Seats projection		197	408	25	

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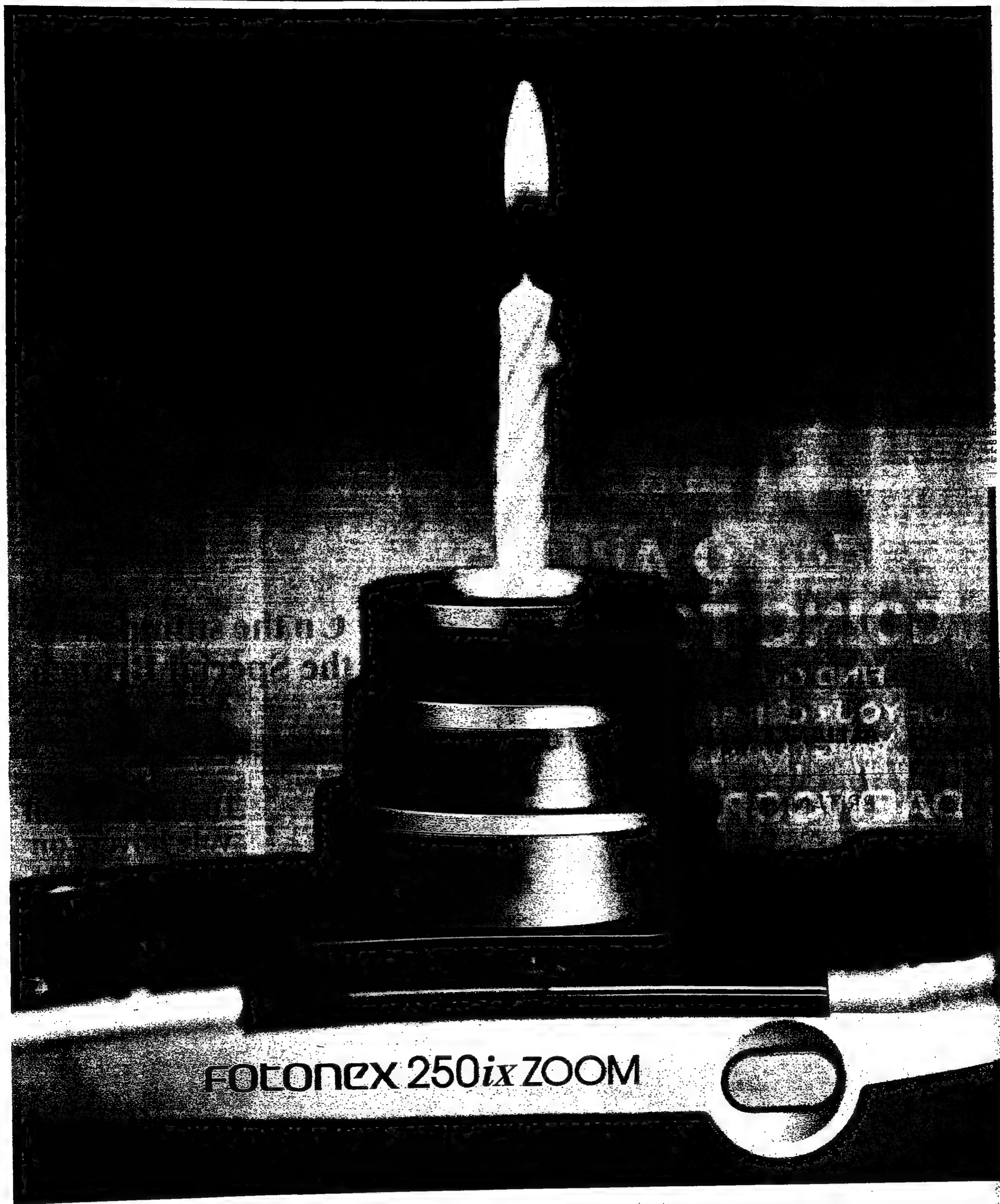
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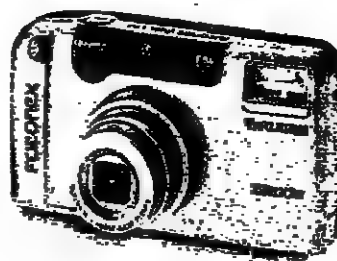


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Ministers turn tail in the lions' den

MICHAEL FORSYTH exchanged the electoral lions' den for a real one yesterday and was left wishing he was back in the political arena. The Scottish Secretary's attempts to portray himself as a Braveheart faltered when he was faced by a pack of cubs.

The seven-month-old animals, enlisted to pose for photographers with Mr Forsyth and William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, at Blair Drummond Safari Park, were supposed to reinforce the Scottish Conservatives' emblem of a lion rampant. But instead of sitting quietly, the cubs, described by safari workers as normally sedate, showed their claws and snarled and snapped at the nervous-looking candidates.

Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague entered the lion's enclosure in front of a pack of photographers for a morning photo session to begin a day of campaigning in the Scottish Secretary's home constituency. The cubs were brought out to pose with the two men, but as if on cue they struggled and fought with their keepers as soon as they set eyes on their new cellmates.

As Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague backed away, the cubs bared their teeth and growled. Any attempt by the men to come close was warned off with a swipe of a paw. Eventually the two men posed nervously a safe distance from the cubs, who were placated with chunks of raw meat.



Michael Forsyth and William Hague with the uncooperative lions yesterday

IRA tactics look like vote-loser in marginal

MODERATE nationalists are quietly turning against Sinn Féin in Mid-Ulster after the IRA's campaign of disruption in Britain. Nationalists in the marginal constituency who might have voted Sinn Féin said yesterday they would now support the SDLP's Denis Haughey, a vehement critic of the IRA.

Two pensioners chatting outside the Convent of Mercy in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, a mixed town in the heart of Mid-Ulster, said that peace was the major issue in the election. One elderly woman, who asked not to be named, said: "I will be voting for Denis because he is the serious peace candidate."

Her sentiments will irritate Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Féin candidate, who must convince nationalists that he offers the best chance of unseating the Rev William McCrea of the Democratic Unionists. Mr McGuinness aims to woo SDLP voters who were outraged when Mr McCrea shared a platform last September with Billy Wright, the hardline loyalist.

Sinn Féin faces a tough fight because a split nationalist vote has handed Mid-Ulster to Unionists at every election since 1974 even though the electorate is 60 per cent Catholic. But yesterday's IRA disruption may not cost Mr McGuinness votes — nationalists' distaste at it may have faded by polling day.

A mother who was picking up her children from the Holy Trinity Primary School in

Nationalist disgust at renewed terrorism splits the vote between SDLP and Sinn Féin in Mid-Ulster. This can only benefit the DUP, writes Nicholas Watt



Cookstown said that she was upset for commuters in England, but she felt that John Major could have avoided the trouble. She said: "John Major has a lot to answer for because he should have grasped the opportunity for peace. There also does seem to be a lot of fuss in London when we suffered much more serious violence in Northern Ireland."

Mr McGuinness hopes to attract such voters by a charm offensive on the doorsteps of Mid-Ulster. The self-proclaimed former IRA man has shed his stony demeanour and is grinning his way round the constituency, casting himself in the unlikely role of a peace campaigner. Speaking at Sinn Féin's weekly election campaign press conference yesterday, Mr McGuinness said: "The people of Mid-Ulster have been quite impressed by the contribution of people like myself have made in trying to bring about a peace settlement in our country."

McGuinness had a serious message for the voters. "This is a very important election," he said. "We see it as a new opportunity to rebuild the peace process with a new British government. It also gives us an opportunity to remove Mr McCrea."

Mr McGuinness's performance on the doorsteps cuts no ice with his two main opponents, who believe that the electorate will not be fooled. The SDLP's Denis Haughey, 52, who first contested Mid-Ulster in 1983 and who has been one of the party's main strategists in its 27-year history, is confident that he will be seen as the only nationalist capable of beating Mr McCrea.

As he canvassed on the outskirts of Coalisland, Mr Haughey said: "Anyone who votes for Martin McGuinness will be in no doubt about what they are voting for." Mr Haughey, a former teacher who is married with three children, added that thousands of SDLP supporters, who "lent" their votes to Sinn Féin in the election to the Northern Ireland Forum last May to protest against the

Government's handling of the peace process, would not repeat their mistake.

He said: "Those people feel betrayed and they feel conned because of the resumption of the IRA campaign in Northern Ireland. They will not fall for Sinn Féin again."

On the other side of Mid-Ulster in his home town of Magherafelt, Mr McCrea insisted that he was quietly confident that he would retain his seat. "Many people believe that Martin McGuinness is a step too far and Sinn Féin have no policies to offer other than a 'hate McCrea' campaign," he said.

However, Mr McCrea has quietly recognised that he is facing the most serious challenge in his 14 years as an MP and has trimmed his sails accordingly. His firebrand speeches, in which he used to give apocalyptic warnings of the threat to Northern Ireland from Dublin, have been replaced by measured tones as he argues that the election will be about "bread and butter issues" such as health and education.

Mr McCrea, who lives in a heavily-fortified house with video cameras and a police guard, dismisses the row about his support for Billy Wright as a side-show which is of no interest to the electorate. "Have you been brainwashed or are you just plugged into nationalist propaganda?" Mr McCrea replied to a question about Mr Wright before moving on to discuss the "real" issues.

On the stump with the Special Branch

ANDREW HUNTER, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland Committee in the last Parliament, is followed everywhere by Special Branch officers: testament to the security threat he faces while canvassing in his Basingstoke constituency.

He has to live every day with the consequences of his interest in Ulster politics. An IRA hitman is serving 24 years for trying to kill him three years ago.

During Mr Hunter's visit to a bungalow estate on the west side of Basingstoke, where most residents are elderly, he was followed by armed Special Branch officers, one wearing the traditional trenchcoat, and slowly moving armour-plated saloon cars.

Travelling with him in the back of his car on the way to the estate, you become aware of certain security precautions. Every Tory canvasser on this visit yesterday morning was conscious that it is the routines that can be so dangerous.

Andrew Hunter, 54, Conservative MP for Basingstoke since 1983 and now standing as Conservative candidate in a redrawn constituency, knows there is a real IRA threat to him because he has been one of the most outspoken voices on Northern Ireland affairs for many years. On the day of yet more IRA disruption, Mr Hunter did not hesitate to launch forth on his favourite political subject. "When the IRA ceasefire ended, that showed them in their true colours. I am not going to be taken for a ride ever again," he said.

His name was on a list found in December of people targeted for assassination. Three years ago, the IRA gunman was caught "as he was on his way to eliminate me", he said.

The IRA first took an interest in Mr Hunter in 1988 when he called for the return of capital punishment for terrorists convicted of murder. "The latest intelligence," he said, "is that I am still being targeted. But that

Michael Evans reports on the perils of going canvassing with a Conservative candidate whose outspoken views have put him on an IRA hitlist

will not stop me from talking about Northern Ireland. It is the subject I specialise in and my supporters here in Basingstoke understand that, although they are a little bewildered."

As we drew into the bungalow estate, Mr Hunter said quietly: "Wait a moment." Then as the Special Branch officers positioned themselves, we climbed out of the car, the heavily reinforced doors requiring a considerable push.

Mr Hunter did not mention Northern Ireland as he

lan Gow, the Tory MP who was murdered by the IRA in July 1990.

When Mr Hunter called for the death penalty for terrorists in an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, his life was threatened. Armed protection was provided for several months and then removed after MI5 decided that the threat had lifted.

He expects that the present 24-hour protection will have to continue for the foreseeable future. He said he had no intention of giving up his strong public stance on the IRA, whether or not the Government was returned to power on May 2.

He added: "I did not know what I was letting myself in for. I did not realise the protection would have to be so prolonged."

His belief is that the IRA is planning to cause maximum disruption on polling day. "That is what I would do, if I was the IRA, so I am sure that is what they are working towards," he said.

After a morning of knocking on doors in the company of his armed protectors, Mr Hunter returned to the Conservative club campaign headquarters and expressed his alarm at the prospect of a Labour government making Northern Ireland policy.

He said: "The IRA believes that British governments will give concessions to violence. When I met Sinn Féin during the ceasefire, they made it clear they thought violence worked."

He added: "I do not think Sinn Féin should ever be allowed to join the peace talks because they will never be committed to ending violence. What I am afraid of is that a Labour government will allow Sinn Féin into the talks, which will give them credibility. They do not deserve to be given any credibility."



Hunter: man in jail for trying to kill him

spoke to residents at their front doors. But one elderly woman made a remark that brought a smile to his face, as the police officer in the trenchcoat watched from the end of the path. She said: "I want a United Kingdom, but not the IRA."

None of the residents seemed aware that the cluster of suited men accompanying Mr Hunter were police officers rather than fellow canvassers. Their protection was embracing but not intrusive to those who opened their doors. Mr Hunter, whose majority at the 1992 election was more than 21,000, was a friend of Sir

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Study casts doubt on advantages of grammar schools

By JOHN O'LEARY AND JILL SHERMAN

NEW research cast doubt on Conservative claims yesterday that John Major's plans for a grammar school in every town would improve standards in comprehensive schools.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, quoted a study showing the benefits for children in neighbouring comprehensives. But critics argued that the study of schools in south Birmingham and Salisbury was too small to be conclusive, while wider research by *The Times* suggested that the impact of selection was uneven.

The Department for Education and Employment's survey of 20 schools' results showed that the proportion of 16-year-olds gaining five or more higher-grade GCSEs rose by more than twice the national average. But a comparison of results in five selective authorities showed that comprehensive schools' pass rates had fallen in two of the boroughs in the year that the survey was conducted.

In Kent and Lincolnshire, two of the counties with the largest number of grammar schools, the improvement in pass rates in non-selective schools was comparable with the department's figures, as it was in the London borough of Kingston. But in Trafford, Greater Manchester, and Redbridge, northeast London, the proportion of pupils with five higher-grade GCSEs fell in 1995. Both boroughs improved last summer.

Mr Major will rely on parent power to fulfil his grammar school ambitions,

clearing the way for petitions to trigger a move to selection. Although all state schools would receive an extra £300 per pupil as they gained full control of their budgets, there would be no extra incentives to become a grammar school.

Mr Major vowed that whenever parents wanted grammar schools, "doctrinaire Labour councils won't be able to stand in the way". Formal ballots would not be needed, although the school governors would have to show the Education Secretary that there was a broad consensus in favour of selection.

Mrs Shephard said a recent opinion poll showed that four out of five parents favoured selection, as she announced plans to establish a Grammar Schools Trust to help schools convert to grammar status.

But Labour claimed that in comparable areas, comprehensive systems were performing at least as well as those with grammar schools. The party quoted Hampshire's lead over selective Kent and Essex as an example.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said Conservative plans would lead to secondary modern schools for between 80 and 90 per cent of children. "The vast majority of children will be left with a second-class education."

Peter Miller, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said the scheme would not address the main failing of British education, which involved those at the bottom of the ability range. "How would selection for the top 20 per cent

to 30 per cent help those children?"

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the result would be a "gross waste of resources" with over-subscribed selective schools while less popular schools had a surplus of places. "The decision to give parents the right to decide on the rate of grammar school expansion panders to the self-interest of the minority at the expense of the real needs of the majority."

Margaret Dewar, who chairs the National Grammar Schools' Association, welcomed the move, arguing that there was a real demand for more grammar school places. But she expressed disappointment that there would be no extra funding for schools that converted to grammar schools in the way that money was made available to specialist technology and modern language schools.



Gillian Shephard, third from left, talking to A-level pupils in Darlington yesterday

Model of peaceful co-existence that delivers results

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

REDBRIDGE, in northeast London, could be the model for a future Conservative school system. Its two table-topping grammar schools co-exist with successful comprehensive and specialist technology colleges.

The borough, which covers large council estates as well as middle-class suburbs, was eighth in last year's local authority rankings for secondary schools.

Labour has been in control for more than a year, but there has been no attempt to abolish the 11-plus, which has survived from pre-comprehensive days. Two thirds of children in the borough take the examination, but fewer than one in ten win a place at Woodford County High School for Girls or Ilford County High School for Boys.

With children from neighbouring authorities also eligible for grammar school places, more than 2,000 ten-year-olds compete for places at the two schools each October. Children have to show signed photographs as proof

of identity when they sit the examination. The process keeps a thriving network of private tutors in business and also swells the numbers in local preparatory schools. Redbridge's own primary schools are forbidden to coach candidates for the 11-plus.

The local authority has always insisted that its remaining secondary schools are comprehensives, not secondary moderns. Most boasted GCSE results better than the national average last year, although head teachers say they would have done better still with the full ability range. Their schools are "creamed" by three successful independent schools as well as the grammar schools.

When, in the early 1980s, Redbridge parents were consulted on a proposal to double the number of grammar schools they rejected the scheme decisively, opting instead for a fully comprehensive system. The existing grammar schools survived, however, and enjoy considerable local support.

Anxious wait for local council poll outcome

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GRAMMAR schools in Kent are awaiting the result of local elections on May 1 with as much trepidation as the national poll.

Kent retains 40 grammar schools, the highest number of any local authority, and claims to be running the fairest selective system. The large number of grammars means they take the top 25 per cent of children, compared to the more elitist 10 or 5 per cent in areas with only a handful of selective schools.

Grammar head teachers in Kent believe that a strong Labour or Liberal Democrat performance in the 99-seat county council election will put the current system at risk. The two parties gained control in 1989 as a joint adminis-

tration but the Conservatives still hold 41 seats.

The authority still runs the 11-plus tests in English and mathematics which are used to select children every January. The Kent test is "opt-in" and half of its 11-year-olds take it. The council also meets the cost of sending children on buses to distant grammar schools, unlike Essex County Council, which scrapped transport grants when the Conservatives lost control.

Kent's secondary moderns prefer to be known as wide-ability schools. A number have opted out and re-styled themselves as comprehensives which specialise in arts, sports or music, selecting 10 per cent of children for their aptitude in these areas.

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COMPAQ

Blair pledges to stand firm against Euro superstate

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR yesterday gave a veiled warning to Britain's continental partners not to expect automatic agreement from a Labour government over further changes to the European Union.

In a strongly Eurosceptic speech to foreign ambassadors in Manchester, the Labour leader declared himself a British patriot and said that he would not hesitate to stop any plans for a European superstate. He cautioned Europe's political elites against forcing change without democratic support.

Mr Blair said that only Labour could restore Britain's role as a leading nation in the world. He spelled out his party's approach to foreign policy and in particular his plans for negotiations on the future of the European Union in Amsterdam.

Unlike the Tories, said Mr Blair, Labour would seek to lead in Europe. But there was not a Gadarene rush towards a European superstate. "There is a good deal of unease at the pace and direction of integration in many continental countries, not just Britain," he said. "And if there is a desire for a superstate, we would not hesitate to stop it. We want a Europe where national identities are not submerged and where countries co-operate to-

gether, not a giant and unmanageable European superstate run from the centre."

While maintaining his wait and see policy on a European single currency, Mr Blair said that Labour would "have no truck" with a fudged monetary union. He added: "Too often in the past, European elites have forced their people to proceed at a pace they are not comfortable with."

"This is not only wrong but it is also counterproductive to our democratic system. Europe can only go forward if it goes at a pace and in the direction that its peoples want. It is far more important that Europe proceed successfully than that it try to rush ahead and fail."

In key passage where he moved away from his prepared text, Mr Blair rejected what he called the narrow isolationism of the Tories and said that Labour would restore Britain's confidence as a nation in the world.

"I am a British patriot," he told his audience. "I am proud of being a British patriot. I love my country. I will always put the interests of my country first. But the Britain of my vision is not a Britain turning its back on the world — narrow, shy, uncertain. It is a Britain that is confident of its place in the world, sure of its

ability to engage with the world and provide leadership in the world."

It had been Britain's destiny to lead nations in past centuries. "That should not be a destiny that is part of our past, but part of our future," he added. "Britain can still be a great country. If on May 1 we are elected for government, we shall show what true British patriotism is about and give Britain a new lease of life."

Mr Blair said that Labour would demand immediate action from Britain's European partners on five priorities at Amsterdam in June. The party would demand the completion of the single market by the end of the British EU presidency in June 1998; progress towards enlargement of the EU to the east; reform of the common agricultural policy; moves to tackle unemployment and to boost flexible labour markets; and greater commitment to foreign policy cooperation after the failures of European diplomacy in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr Blair accused John Major of "brazen effrontery" for claiming that only he could negotiate successfully for Britain's interests. Tory divisions on Europe were "gravely damaging" Britain and the Prime Minister's record was one of "abject failure".



Tony Blair takes the lead in a computer soccer game against an employee of Ocean Graphics yesterday

Clarke backs out of TV interview

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE pulled out of a television interview last night after an argument with the BBC over plans to question him about Europe.

The Chancellor was due to face Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* in a live interview about the economy but cancelled his appearance only four hours before the broadcast. His advisers argued with

BBC executives after claiming that they had changed the focus of the planned interview to Europe. The decision came the day after Mr Clarke clashed with Eurosceptics when he dismissed the "paranoid nonsense" he said they were voicing.

After several increasingly irate calls between the BBC and senior Tories, Mr Clarke decided against travelling from Nottingham to London for the interview. Senior To-

ries accused the BBC of "unacceptable" behaviour in trying to change the terms of the interview, which was arranged in February.

Last night a Tory spokesman said that a series of interviews had been arranged with Cabinet ministers and the subject for discussion was not changed at the last minute in other cases. "The BBC changed the terms very late in the day and that is not acceptable. We have agreed

subjects for interview with all the main broadcasters several months ago and we expect them to stick to that. We have already granted *Newsnight* an interview with Malcolm Rifkind and the issue of Europe was discussed at length.

"There is no question of the Chancellor backing away from debate on Europe. As far as we are concerned, the Prime Minister has said all there is to be said on Europe."

NEWS IN BRIEF

SNP to get network TV broadcasts

The Scottish National Party has won the right to have its party election broadcasts shown on network television for the first time. Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, has ruled that Channel 4 and Channel 5 must transmit two SNP broadcasts on April 23 and 28.

The two channels last week refused to carry an SNP broadcast on the ground that they could not agree to broadcasts with separate content on different sides of the border. The ruling means that viewers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will see the broadcast even though they cannot vote for SNP candidates. BBC and ITV broadcast SNP programmes only on BBC Scotland and the ITV Scottish regional stations. SNP chiefs also demanded more television coverage of their election campaign.

Today's election timetable

Conservatives: Michael Howard, Roger Freeman in the Midlands; Kenneth Clarke in the South East; Virginia Bottomley in Wales; Ian Lang in the North East; Brian Mawhinney in the East; Sir George Young in the South West; Peter Lilley in London.

Labour: Tessa Jowell, Glenda Jackson in the South East; Frank Dobson, Andrew Smith in the Midlands; Mo Mowlam in Wales; Robin Cook in the North; Harriet Harman in the Midlands.

Liberal Democrats: Emma Nicholson, Charles Kennedy in London; Paddy Ashdown in the Isle of Wight; David Steel in Wales.

On screen: Tory election broadcast: ITV 6.55pm, CS 7.55pm, BBC1 9.50pm, BBC2 10.30pm, C4 10pm.

Liberal Party election broadcast: CS 6.55pm, BBC1 6.55pm, ITV 10.30pm, BBC2 11.30pm, C4 midnight.

On the Internet

The complete *Times* election coverage can be accessed via the Internet edition (site address: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>) where a special section has links to all the major stories and leading articles published so far. There are also further details of our MORI polls plus a collection of links to political parties and other reference sources.

Both parties are guilty of blurring the choices for Britain



PETER RIDDELL

Jacques Santer is, of course, right. He did not refer explicitly to Britain in his criticisms of the flaws in the sceptics' case, but he was obviously referring to the distorted election debate over Europe. However, it is not just the Tories' fault. Labour is also guilty of blurring the choices facing Britain.

The debate has been mainly conducted in macho language. John Major claims that only he has the hard-won experience to deal with the wily continentalers over their infernal ideas for closer integration. Tony Blair is inexperienced and would be pushed around by the big boys of Europe.

By contrast, Mr Blair argued

yesterday in his big foreign policy speech that the "real issue is one of leadership and clarity". He fairly points to the flaws of Britain's handling of the European ban on beef, though conveniently forgetting that Labour mistakenly supported last May's decision to obstruct European Union business. Given "the fundamental differences in party management, attitude and leadership", a new Labour government could give "Britain the fresh start it needs in Europe". Of course, Mr Blair initially would have a freer hand to negotiate and he would sound more positive about the EU than Mr Major.

Mr Blair's approach is long on

good intentions but evades the main issues that a new Prime Minister will have to address. Mr Blair said his first aim was the completion of the single market, but it already is for the Tories. Second, he emphasised the importance of enlargement to the East. Quite right, but that will inescapably involve much larger institutional changes to the EU than he discussed. It is much more than a matter of considering the extension of qualified majority voting to a few areas (such as environmental and regional policy) or re-weighting the voting system.

His third priority of reform of the common agricultural policy has been pursued by every British

Government since the mid-1970s with some, rather limited, success. His fourth aim, of tackling unemployment and promoting flexible labour markets, is, in part, an act of faith on a change of attitudes in Europe. His fifth goal of making foreign policy co-operation real is an existing British commitment.

But much trickier issues will have to be faced in Amsterdam as set out in the Dutch presidency paper: whether to make defence an EU responsibility; expanding the role of the EU into asylum and immigration policy and within the remit of the European Court of Justice; and extending the concept of European citizenship. On most of these, Mr

Blair was silent yesterday. In the past, Labour has opposed most such proposals, risking disagreement rather than a "fresh start" in Amsterdam. That is leaving aside a single currency where Mr Blair has virtually ruled out British participation in any first wave.

Far from putting "his foot on the accelerator to a federal Europe", as Mr Major claimed last night, Mr Blair would not put Britain in the inner core of closer integration, or at "the heart of Europe". The difference between the parties might be more of tone and tactics than of strategy, though that in itself would be welcome for Mr Santer and the rest of the EU.

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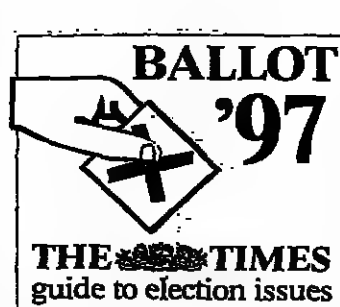
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Labour and Tories are united by indecision

ON THE surface, the past week's campaign drama revolved around Europe. In truth, the reality of what happens in the EU was marginal to soundbite strife over political leadership and party discipline. When John Major appealed over the heads of his squabbling candidates and ministers to voters not to bind his hands, he was making a final effort to sound like a leader. His speech laid out no strategy for resolving Britain's dilemma over the single currency, which the Prime Minister rightly described as the most momentous issue to face any British government in the second half of this century. The main parties' identically obdurate stances over EU fish quotas contain no prescription for achieving Britain's objective.

Evasion characterises most British debate over Europe. Few politicians can muster the self-confidence to admit that the governance of late 20th-century Britain has been profoundly influenced by the decision of France and Germany, backed by the United States and most of Germany's neighbours, to develop supranational government in Europe. But the EU finds itself at a crossroads. Its system is a higgledy-piggledy hybrid, combining purely federal elements, such as the European Court of Justice, with less integrated decision-making in which national governments retain their right of veto. Since the Single European Act of 1986 and the fall of the Berlin Wall, ordinary voters have expressed increasingly open doubts about the ultimate target of uniting Europe and about

the means being used to achieve that end. Undaunted, the architects of the Maastricht treaty set an apparently irreversible timetable for the launch of a single currency by at least some of the EU's states in January 1999. If the euro is born on schedule, the currency's success or failure will shape British politics for a generation. History provides no example of a multilateral monetary union that has survived without a matching political union. The states that fuse their currencies will have to find a more effective system than the present one to keep governments in step with each other. The potential of the single currency to tighten the political unity of Europe is therefore immense. But since not all EU states can qualify to join, the power of



THE POLITICS

monetary union to divide is also enormous. Yet Britain's political class maintains a serene silence on the issue of principle. All three parties are committed to referendums in the

event that a Cabinet recommends joining. Neither main party will ask, let alone answer, the basic question: is the redistribution of power involved in currency union right or wrong? Tory ministers, with the sole notable exception of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, convey the unambiguous impression that a Tory Cabinet would not join the first wave of states in 1999, but that membership has never been ruled out. Shadow ministers have kept their options open, but the underlying trend in Labour policy has been gradually to assure voters that a Blair government will make no sudden leap to join the single currency. That impression was hardened by the Labour manifesto's carefully toned remark that "formidable obstacles" stand in the

way of Britain joining the first wave of countries adopting the euro. Robin Cook went furthest when he said early in the campaign that the decision is unlikely in the next Parliament. Debate over the euro has overshadowed the torpid Brussels talks to revise the Maastricht treaty. The government elected on May 1 will have six weeks before the revision is due to be completed. Labour says that it would consider majority voting decisions on "certain areas" of social, industrial, regional and environmental policy. But these exclude taxation — Labour is therefore not committed to ending the deadlock over an EU-wide carbon energy tax — and are conditional on the voting system being reformed to give greater weight to large states such as

Britain. France and Germany. Labour's most distinctive promise remains its pledge to take Britain into the social chapter. What unites Britain's two main parties on Europe remains more important than what divides them. Both believe that nation states remain the focus of people's loyalties and the basic building blocks of the system. Both are undecided about the single currency. Both are opposed to altering the treaty so as to make the formation of a "hard core" inside the EU easier. Both have little time for the idea that the EU should become a single global power in foreign policy and defence. Both would like to shift the EU's priorities away from the Franco-German agenda. In the end this convergence will matter more than the disagreements.

Reality has failed to match the rhetoric

IN THE 18 years since the Conservatives were elected Western Europe's political classes have grown used to poking their noses into their neighbours' business. A technocratic elite now links Brussels with other capitals in the European Union, and it is commonplace for bankers, civil servants and MPs across the Union to follow in detail the ups and downs of Helmut Kohl's plan to reform German pensions or the fate of Romano Prodi's "euro-tax" in Italy. British politicians have been poor at networking on the Continent. Ministers in the Foreign Office who speak a second European language are the exception — let alone ministers at other departments. The adversarial habits of the House of Commons breed indifference to the coalition-building culture of continental politics.

Linked to partners whose long-term aim of European political and economic unification they did not share, British governments have long sought ways of avoiding the issue of Europe's destination. In the early and mid-1980s, that elusive overlap of interests was found. Margaret Thatcher fought pitched battles over the British contribution to the Brussels budget which allowed her to claim victory in her campaign to "get my money back". But Mrs Thatcher was lulled into a sense of false security. By the mid-1980s, Chancellor Kohl of Germany and François Mitterrand in France were quietly cementing a partnership determined to set Western Europe's agenda. Britain raised no objection to the appoint-

THE RECORD

ment of an earnest French technocrat called Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission. Britain's businessmen were enthusiastic about M Delors' first big idea — bringing down the remaining barriers to an open market across 12 economies. Many businesses grew steadily more dependent on trade and cross-border investment in the European market, creating a commercial constituency now split about the merits of the single currency but united in fear of British disengagement from the EU.

The lukewarm attitude of business and wider public opinion towards monetary union can be traced back to the trauma of Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) between 1990 and 1992. The Bundesbank privately warned John Major, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, that sterling was entering the system at an unsustainably high rate, and was proved right. Sterling's election from the ERM, in September 1992, was also triggered by men from the Bundesbank. British ministers had to follow the German mark, keeping interest rates high, even in the face of business collapses. Overnight, Cabinet ministers were converted to the opposite philosophy by events beyond their control. The Government has never recovered from the blow to its authority.

The economic costs and benefits of Europe differ huge-



A back-door exit for Chancellor Norman Lamont in September 1992 as interest rate turmoil led to ejection from the ERM

ly between separate sectors of the economy. Smaller businesses which do not export are likely to have resented the ERM. Larger, multinational industrial groups concentrated in export trade emphasise the benefits of pan-European regulation and a regulated, frontier-free market of 380 million people from the Arctic to the Aegean.

Europhile politicians point out that in value terms, the EU market is 14 times the size of the American market and 2½ times as large as the Japanese. Scenarios say that the opportunities of the next generation lie in Asian economies — China above all — which grow at three or four times the rate of stagnant European rivals.

The true costs and benefits of the EU to the British economy lie in between. The table (below right) discloses the plain and unexciting truth that Britain's economic health does not depend on the EU, but that complete withdrawal would involve enormous dislocation. The figures tell us little about what economic damage staying outside a single currency might do, since Britain would not auto-

matically be excluded from the market. But many businessmen fear that an economic and political "core" Europe would slowly push British firms to the margins, depriving them of opportunities for mergers and acquisitions.

Mr Major has made great play with the claim that Britain's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty protected the country from expensive, job-destroying EU law. Although no comprehensive survey is possible, a majority of business opinion seems to agree with him; there is no strong lobby outside the TUC demanding entry to the social chapter.

But Mr Major often expresses his claim in ways which undermine his own case. He has said that joining the social chapter would cost half a million jobs but has produced no calculations to support the claim.

He does not always grasp that the opt-out gives Britain some protection from some EU social law, not complete insulation from all such legislation. He often implies that the opt-out encourages foreign investment to come to Britain

rather than to other EU states. There is little hard evidence to support that. The risks posed by the social chapter lie in its potential to add costs; but so far it has imposed few. Britain's competitive advantage is that British labour law has been reformed to cut the costs of employing Britons as against the cost of hiring French or German workers.

Much debate about "common foreign and security policy" has also revealed a large gap between reality and rhetoric. British governments believe that integrating the foreign policies of substantial sovereign states has never been possible by the methods used to merge economies. In 1991, Douglas Hurd was a lone advocate among European foreign ministers of this unremarkable contention. By this year and after the EU's stumblingly ineffectual handling of the Bosnian civil war, the British position is widely, if discreetly, accepted.

Not all collective action is a waste of time. The EU states negotiate as a single body in world trade negotiations and gain greater clout from their strength of numbers. But the

lack of commonly agreed purpose and a common military force disables the EU's ambition to be a superpower.

Possibly the greatest disappointment in Britain's European policy of the past few years has been the Government's failure to press a powerfully argued case for admitting Central European states to the EU. If the original high moral purpose of European integration was to entrench democracy and to lower the risk of war by progressive economic and social intermingling of societies, then the lowering of the Iron Curtain presents Europe with a chance to relaunch itself.

British ministers, besieged by sceptics who wanted red-blooded hostility to everything across the Channel, lost interest in becoming advocates for making Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic early members of the EU. Herr Kohl, who wants the single currency to take precedence over EU enlargement, has successfully discouraged grand-standing on the issue. The next government has an opportunity to rectify this sad state of affairs.

THE POLITICIANS

MALCOLM RIFFKIND

Age: 50

Education: George Watson's College and Edinburgh University.

Family: married, one son, one daughter.

Politics: once rather "wet" on issues such as Europe and gently sympathetic to Scottish devolution; now making sceptical noises about Europe and firmly opposed to devolution. Unable to shake the suspicions that he has trimmed to suit the prevailing wind and not out of conviction.

Performance: thoroughly determined Scottish lawyer but without long-term vision or the political clout to help to heal Cabinet wounds caused by the single currency. Failed to convince Cabinet that the "beef war" would be a diplomatic and political fiasco.



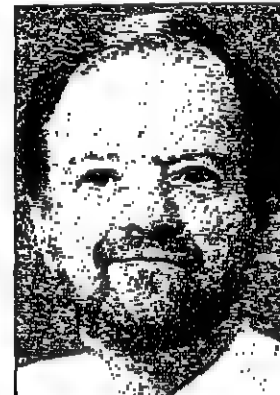
ROBIN COOK

Age: 51

Education: Aberdeen Grammar School and Edinburgh University.

Family: married with two sons. His wife, Margaret, is a hospital consultant. One of his sons helps to compile his father's racing tips column for a Scottish newspaper.

Politics: Tribune Left, veering to Centre. By new Labour standards, sceptical about EU in general and single currency in particular. While robustly defending the Blairite line, always manages to leave the lingering impression that he would incline further leftwards.



Performance: despite the appearance of an irritable ginger-haired gnome, he terrifies Tories by the use of sharp, sardonic aggression at the dispatch box.

THE FACTS

□ Britain's net contribution to the EU budget for 1995 (the latest year available) was £2.86 billion, the highest contribution of any member state except Germany, whose payment was £1.1 billion.

□ Large EU states have served notice that they want to alter the majority voting quotas which load the system in favour of smaller states. Belgium, with a population about one eighth the size of Germany's, has half Germany's voting weight.

□ The next government will face two major European summits within weeks of taking office: the EU heads of government meet-

ing in Amsterdam June 16-17, which is supposed to settle the revisions of the Maastricht treaty, and the Nato summit in Madrid on July 8, which should invite selected central European states to join the alliance.

□ A recent opinion poll asked whether people thought they would be better or worse off in ten or 20 years if their countries were using a single currency. In France 53 per cent of respondents said that they would be better off and only 18 per cent thought that they would fare worse. In both Germany and Britain, respondents thought they would be worse off by ratios of 2:1.

CONSERVATIVES



Vision: EU should be a "partnership of nation states". Nation state remains a "rock of security", and is the basic building block of the European system and gives a sense of belonging.

EMU: Cabinet ministers paying lip service to "wait and see" vary greatly in practice across a range of viewpoints. In constituency election addresses many candidates have broken with official policy, using anti-EMU formulas on a scale from tepid reluctance to visceral hostility.

Maastricht II: no increase in majority voting or the powers of the European Parliament. No direct EU control of the Western European Union defence group. Pragmatic reform of European Court of Justice.

Enlargement: in favour of admitting Central European states, but warning that common agricultural policy and regional subsidies will have to be drastically cut.

"Core" Europe: any arrangements to allow inner groups to press ahead must be open to all and agreed by all.

LABOUR



Vision: an alliance of independent nations choosing to co-operate to achieve the goals they cannot achieve alone. "We oppose a European federal superstate." Promises to give Britain "leadership in Europe".

EMU: retain British opt-out and make "complex and difficult judgment" on basis of "hard-headed assessment of economic reality".

Staying out would grow harder if success of euro provoked pressure for British membership. Maastricht II: limited extension of majority voting conditional on new voting weight for large states. Will join social chapter. No significant change to joint foreign policy; hostile to European army. Will not relax British immigration control.

Enlargement: enthusiastic about Central European membership. EU expansion planned as major theme of British EU presidency in first half of next year.

"Core" Europe: hostile in principle, but recent pragmatic noises.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



Vision: a decentralised federal United Kingdom within a decentralised federal European Union. Britain must show leadership in Europe.

EMU: it is in Britain's interests to join as and when monetary union begins. Britain and its economy can only suffer by staying outside the single currency and will in any case be forced to run economic policy in

parallel with the euro zone. Maastricht II: extend majority voting but not to treaty changes or the EU budget. Open secretive Council of Ministers to public. Extend amending and blocking powers of European Parliament. Reduce numbers of European Commissioners.

Enlargement: EU should be "wider and deeper" and moved by the "spirit of enlargement". EU may well expand to 25 members in next decade.

"Core" Europe: Franco-German plan incompatible with the spirit of enlargement.

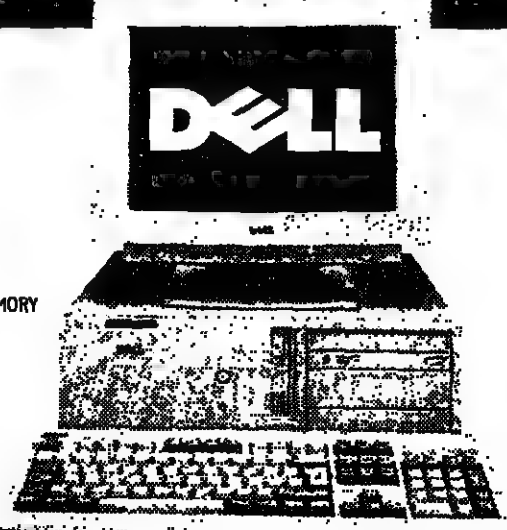


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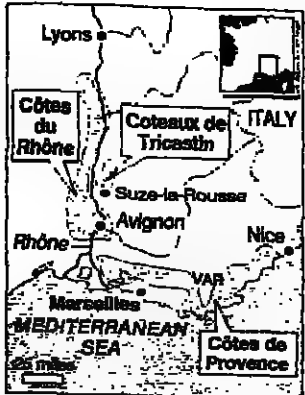
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Severe spring frost takes a hefty nip out of southern French vineyards



FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

WINE growers in southeast France estimate that up to 80 per cent of the expected grape harvest in certain parts of the Var and the Drôme may be lost after an exceptionally severe frost struck the region.

The sudden cold snap will reduce the volume of Coteaux du Rhodan this year by between 10 and 20 per cent, the Comité Interprofessionnel de Coteaux du Rhodan said yesterday, although exports are not expected to be affected. The volume of Coteaux de

Provence, Coteaux Varois and Coteaux d'Aix will also be reduced. As a wave of cold air swept across the region, the temperature fell to -5C (23F) on the night of April 17. The resulting frost blackened vines, particularly vulnerable as they were three weeks more advanced than usual at this time of year after a mild and sunny spring.

One of the hardest-hit appellations will be Coteaux du Tricastin, with up to 80 per cent of the vines burnt by frost. "Everywhere you look there is desolation," lamented the proprietor of 22 hectares (54

acres) of vineyards at Suze-la-Rousse in the Drôme, which produces Coteaux du Tricastin and Coteaux du Rhône. "It is completely done for. There is not a single bud left which is green," added the local mayor, Michel Rieu, himself a wine grower.

Seven thousand hectares of vineyards producing Coteaux du Rhône out of a total of 43,500 hectares have been affected by the frost.

In the Vaucluse, the situation was the same, with more than a third of vineyards suffering from temperatures as low as -7C. Châteauneuf-

du-Pape, Gigondas and Vacqueyras are among the wines included in the estimated loss of 500,000 hectolitres (11 million gallons).

In the Var alone, where 20 communities were affected, the loss is estimated at 80 million francs (£8.8 million). More than 10 per cent of the region's annual production representing about 200,000 hectolitres has been lost, including 100,000 hectolitres of Coteaux de Provence, about a quarter of the expected yield. Exports of Coteaux du Rhône are not expected to be affected as there are significant

stocks to meet overseas demand. Nor, according to Marie-Pierre Delpeuch, a spokesperson for the Comité, will the quality of the wine be affected.

However, the harvest will be made more difficult for growers as they must now distinguish between those vines which were affected by the frost, whose grapes will ripen more slowly, and those which escaped. "As a result, many growers will have to harvest twice this year. It is going to be very complicated for them," said Mme Delpeuch. A crisis group was set up in the region

to estimate the damage and to investigate the possibility of financial compensation for the wine growers, who last night were lamenting what they described as a "financial catastrophe".

Fruit growers in the Drôme were also severely affected by the adverse weather conditions. The community of Tain l'Hermitage suffered the worst with farmers predicting that more than 80 per cent of the local crop of apricots, cherries and pears had been ruined.

Photograph, page 28

Unicef condemns plight of young in Eastern Europe

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A MILLION children are in care in Eastern Europe, hundreds of thousands live on the streets, drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents has reached record levels, and abandoned offspring are increasingly ending up as prostitutes or as victims of paedophiles.

That was the dismal picture drawn by Unicef yesterday in a 170-page report charting the fate of children in post-communist countries since 1989. The composite picture of a destroyed generation suggests that children had it rather better under communism. "In many ways they are worse off now, and this is a scandal," admitted the principal author, Gaspar Fajth.

Unicef emphasises that it was not advocating a turning-back of the political clock. "If you compare the material situation of children then and now, you could say they were better off," said John Micklewright, a Unicef official. "But this does not mean that communism is better for children. These are countries in transition, and the question is where they end up — as relatively more hostile to children, as in Latin America, or more friendly, as in Western Europe."

The report indicates that children are being abandoned on a massive scale. Divorces outstrip marriages in much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. "Marriage

and remarriage rates have plunged the most in the Baltic and Caucasian countries, where in some cases the number of marriages has dropped by half," the report said.

The breakdown of communism introduced the region to mass unemployment: 4.8 million jobs have disappeared in Central Europe since 1989, 2.2 million in southeast Europe, and 13.2 million in Russia and

Children are worse off now than under communism.

This is a scandal

the former Soviet Union. There are huge income differentials. The number of children living in poverty has risen drastically in the past six years. This has hit nutritional standards, increasing the prevalence of stunted growth. Neglect is also a problem, with parents trying to hold down several jobs. Bulgaria estimates that four in five children have no after-school supervision.

The social consequences of this neglect are evident. Adolescents are running wild.

Sexually transmitted diseases are on the increase among 14 to 17-year-olds, especially in the Baltic states, and the countries in the western part of the former Soviet Union. Syphilis is common in the region, after being virtually eradicated in the 1980s. The number of alcohol-related problems among Russian adolescents has jumped from 14.8 per 1,000 youths in 1990 to 27.3 in 1994. Marijuana smoking and glue-sniffing have become common to most schools.

Between 1989 and 1995, juvenile delinquency has increased. Shops in Warsaw have been selling out of baseball bats bought by combative rather than sporting Polish adolescents.

The growing number of street children has also encouraged the sexual exploitation of minors. In Riga, the Latvian capital, only 6 per cent of prostitutes were under the age of 15 in 1989. Now 24 per cent are minors. More than 1,000 Romanian boys are working as prostitutes in Berlin.

Unicef is urging the governments of the East not to neglect social welfare in their difficult transition to market economy. The charity is pressing for new systems of family support and child protection services. Child welfare services on the British model could help, as could family centres and parental support groups, the report said.



Children squeezed into a small dormitory at an orphanage in Targoviste, Romania

Coalition intact as Netanyahu placates critics

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, yesterday reinforced his reputation as the Houdini of politics by emerging from the country's most serious scandal with his political strength undiminished.

As the Jewish state prepared for last night's start of the Passover holiday, all leading members of Mr Netanyahu's ruling coalition who had threatened possible resignation vowed to continue backing his hardline Likud Government, maintaining its comfortable tally of 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

The potential rebels within and beyond Likud claimed that Mr Netanyahu had been vindicated by the decision of the country's two senior law officers not to press charges of fraud and breach of trust recommended in a 995-page police report, which briefly threatened to plunge the country into a divisive June election.

Two senior Likud Cabinet members — Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister, and Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister — withdrew threats of resignation, demonstrating their agreement with Ze'evulun Hammer, the leader of the National Religious Party, a key coalition partner, who said: "The Government has the right to exist. It is not any worse than others from a moral point of view."

Similar statements of support for Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, came from two small parties. The Third

Way and the Russian immigrants' party, Israel B'Aliya, which between them control 11 Knesset seats and which had indicated they might pull out.

After party meetings, they pledged their intention to stay in the coalition, making its political position impregnable despite repeated calls from the main opposition Labour Party for new elections.

Avigdor Kahalani, the former war hero who founded The Third Way, quashed any lingering Labour hopes when he said in response to the 75-page report by the Attorney-General and the State Attorney: "I am glad the matter is behind us."

In a barnstorming series of television performances, Mr Netanyahu brushed aside many of the doubts raised by the report, which said his actions concerning Roni Bar-On, the Jerusalem criminal lawyer who was named Attorney-General, a post he vacated after only 12 hours, "raised bewildering questions".

The Prime Minister said: "The bottom line is, I did not commit any crime, and the Attorney-General confirmed that. I think, and so do the majority of the people, that this affair is behind us."

His reading of the political pulse was supported by a poll in the Tel Aviv daily newspaper, Yediot Ahronot, conducted after the prosecutors' report. It found 58 per cent of Israelis supported Mr Netanyahu's determination not to resign.

Leading article, page 23

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Mining giants sign \$3bn-a-year deals with Zairean rebels

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

MINING multinationals have signed billion-dollar deals for mineral rights with Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, to get ahead in what is being billed as "the second scramble for Africa".

Mining giants such as De Beers and American Mineral Fields have contracted to develop Zaire's mineral deposits which are worth at least \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) a year for copper, cobalt, gold, zinc and diamonds with the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, cutting the legally recognised Government out of the picture.

Executives with the firms said that they are happy to be doing business with the rebels, who control all of Zaire's mineral resources other than its offshore oil fields, because they do not ask for bribes.

De Beers has also ditched its relationship with the fast-crumbling regime of President Mobutu and signed up with

the rebels to get involved in a \$500 million a year diamond business. The unusual alliance between big business and revolutionaries, many of whom were Chinese-trained Maoists and Marxists in their youth, has been accepted by Western governments, who see Mr Kabila as a man to lead Zaire out of three decades of corruption and staggering poverty.

This week American Mineral Fields signed three contracts worth \$885 million which would give the mining house access to the vast metal reserves of Shaba province.

Other multinationals have been asked to provide satellite telephones to the rebels, who have argued that without them they would be unable to negotiate mineral rights deals internationally.

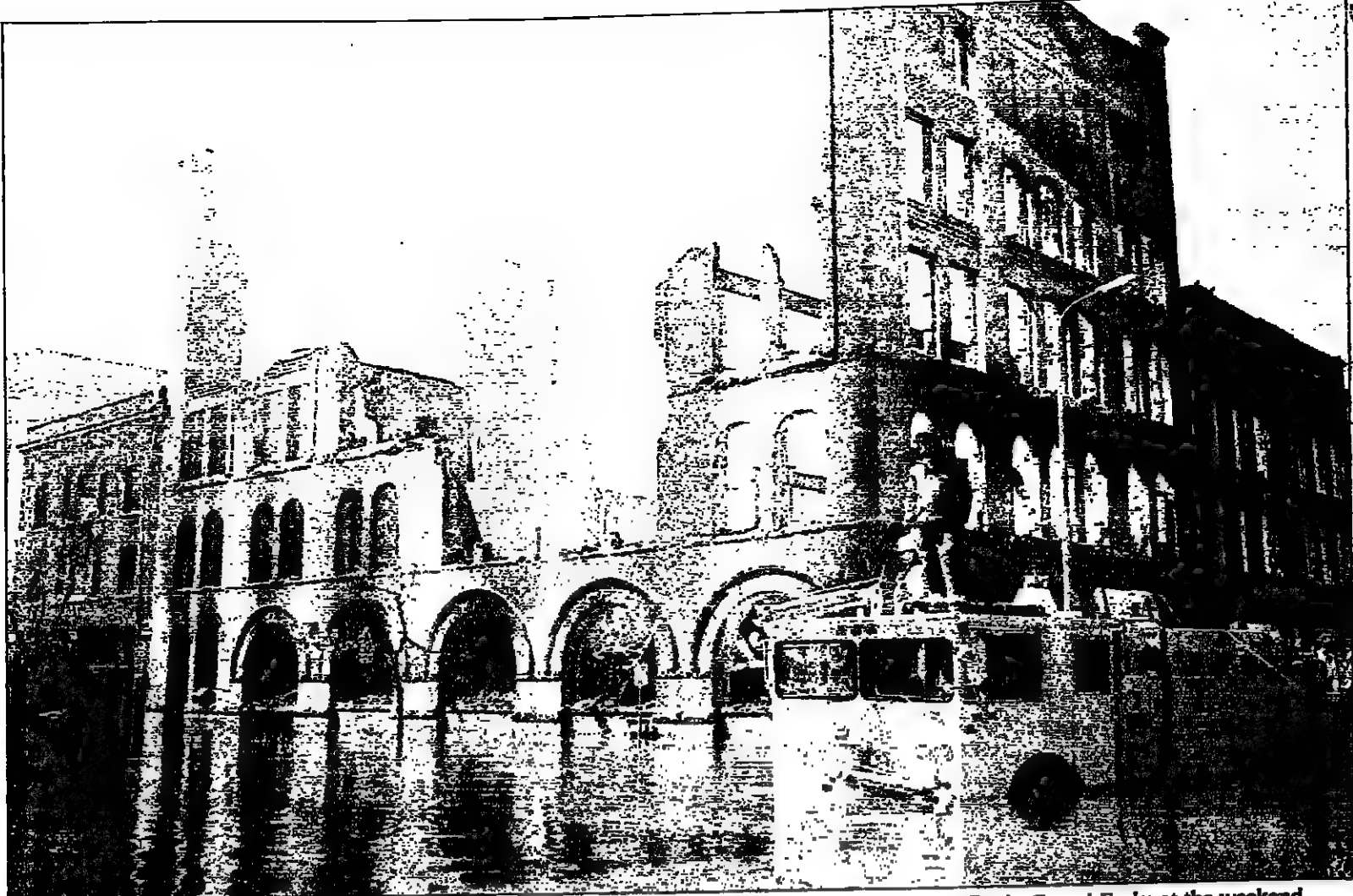
Unlike the days when President Mobutu farmed Zaire's economy as a personal cash cow, the businessmen said that there was no smell of

corruption in meetings with the rebel financial chiefs. Michael McMurrough, chief executive and chairman of American Mineral Fields, said: "AMF has not paid anyone anything."

Kenneth MacLeod, president of International Panorama Resource Corporation of Vancouver, said: "We are going to capitalise on the current strife by increasing our presence and our land holdings in the country."

Another mining magnate based in Johannesburg gave the second scramble a historic twist: "Cecil Rhodes must be spinning in his grave at the opportunities he is missing."

□ Kasese: Aid workers suspended operations in Rwandan refugee camps last night after an outbreak of looting, murder of local people and attacks on foreign journalists and aid workers by Zairean mobs. The Zaireans blamed Rwandan Hutu militiamen for the killings. (AP)



Firefighters near the Security Building, part of one of three city centre blocks to be destroyed by fire in Grand Forks at the weekend

Flooded city takes stock after inferno

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

GRAND FORKS in North Dakota, battered by floods and fire, has been left looking like a scene from wartime Dresden. Three blocks of the town were destroyed by a blaze that firemen, stranded by the flooding Red River, were unable to reach. They even tried taking fire engines into the area on the back of flatbed lorries, but failed.

Police said that 90 per cent of the city's 50,000 residents, including hospital patients, had been moved to higher ground. More than 10 square miles of the state's second biggest conurbation were inundated after heavy spring rains and melting of record

snow, and the handful of people left in their homes were praying, awaiting rescue, or, in one or two cases, defiantly flying the Stars and Stripes.

Grand Forks city centre was sitting in up to 7ft of stinking, sewage-tainted water but that did not prevent the fire spreading. The 11 destroyed buildings included a bank, offices, flats and the headquarters of the *Grand Forks Herald*. The cause of the fire was unknown. It was finally doused by helicopters, which dropped a mixture of chemicals and yet more water.

President Clinton is to visit the stricken area today, the White House said.

Whitewater prosecutor seeks longer inquiry

Washington: The Whitewater inquiry gains further momentum this week (Tom Rhodes writes). Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, is expected to seek a six-month extension for a federal grand jury investigating the alleged involvement of President and Hillary Clinton in illegal transactions in Arkansas.

Mr Starr's decision comes amid reports of repeated contact between Bruce Lindsey, the President's closest confi-

dant, and Webster Hubbell, the former Justice Department official convicted of fraud, who is alleged to have received money to keep silent about Whitewater. At the time, both were key witnesses in the case.

The jury was due to disband at the beginning of next month but the extension, which must be granted by the court in Little Rock, would retain its 23 members until the end of November.



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Chirac announces early poll to gain mandate for EMU

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC last night announced early parliamentary elections in an attempt to give his Gaullist-led Government a clear mandate to lead France into Europe's single currency.

In an unprecedented constitutional move, M Chirac brought the election forward by a year. The first round will be on May 25, the second a week later. Speaking on television last night, he offered a passionate explanation, saying that the "interest of the country commands that we advance the elections".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, will head the centre-right majority's campaign, pledging cuts in state spend-

ing and taxes. However, the campaign will be dominated by Europe, with M Chirac and M Juppé determined that France is ready for the single currency in 1999.

With key decisions on monetary union and the reform of European institutions to be taken over the next year, Government. "In order to approach these deadlines from a position of strength... your agreement and support are essential," he told voters.

Lionel Jospin, the opposition Socialist party's leader, has promised to renegotiate monetary union to implement expansionist economic policies should he become Prime

Minister. The result of the election could also hinge on the performance of minority parties such as Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front, which is opposed to the Maastricht treaty.

According to an opinion poll in yesterday's *Le Figaro*, the Gaullist-led Government is likely to win a majority of the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

The coalition formed by M Chirac's Gaullists and the centrist UDF movement won a crushing majority in the 1993 legislative elections as voters abandoned left-wing parties dogged by sleaze allegations.

Under the French constitution, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet represent the majority in the National Assembly, even if they oppose the President. M Chirac could, therefore, find himself involved in a difficult cohabitation with M Jospin until his term of office ends in 2002.

The head of state, who wanted to announce the snap election on Thursday, was forced to confirm his decision yesterday after it was widely leaked. His opponents will accuse him of opportunism, pointing out he is the first President in the Fifth Republic to dissolve the National Assembly for "his own convenience".

They believe the Government is planning further spending cuts this year. M Jospin said: "If the majority was confident of the success of its policies, it would wait calmly for the elections in a year." M Le Pen, who yesterday earned widespread condemnation for his description of the Nazi gas chambers as "a detail of history", said: "The President is afraid that 1998 will be full of threats."

However, M Chirac's coalition will argue that its reforms are vital for France's future. He said France needed a far-reaching reform of the state to make possible a cut in public spending, the only way to reduce taxes and welfare charges which weighed too heavily on citizens and discouraged initiative. "We must go further along the road to change," M Chirac said.

Gaullists gamble on decisive win

BY ADAM SAGE

ANALYSIS

EUROPE will weigh heavily in the French legislative elections called yesterday by President Chirac, and the elections will weigh heavily on Europe.

A decisive victory for the ruling centre-right coalition would be certain to accelerate moves towards monetary union and political integration. Any other result would fuel the doubts hanging over the single currency and the intergovernmental conference on the reform of European institutions.

Most opinion polls say the Gaullist-led majority is likely to win. But none of France's mainstream leaders can claim to be respected by a volatile electorate, which could turn either to the Socialist-led opposition or anti-European protest parties. The Socialists want to renegotiate monetary union and the protest movements want to scrap it.

Given the uncertainty, yesterday's decision represents a bold gamble. M Chirac's job is secure until the next presidential election in 2002, but if the centre-right loses its parliamentary majority, the President would have to share

power with the Socialists. Under the French constitution, the head of state can dissolve parliament at any time. Yet no President has used his power in this way before. Legislative elections have always been called immediately after a presidential election or during a major crisis. The Gaullists must convince the electorate that it was necessary to break with tradition and call the polls for a month's time, a year before they were due to be held.

With M Chirac likely to step above the political fray, it will be left to Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to explain that France needs a strong government to lead the country into the intergovernmental conference and single currency. He says his Government will have greater authority in European negotiations if it has a clear electoral mandate.

However, the ruling coalition will mind its words over Europe. Many Gaullist voters are hostile towards the single currency and angry about austerity budgets to prepare France for monetary union.



SERGEI KARPUKIN/REUTERS

The body of Lenin, which has been returned to public display in his mausoleum in Red Square after a three-month course of treatment by embalmers.

As the remains of the founder of the Soviet state underwent a series of chemical baths in the specially designed underground lab-

Lenin back on display

oratory adjoining the marble mausoleum in Moscow, a debate raged in Russia over his final resting place (Robin Lodge writes). A growing number of liberal politicians have been demanding the removal and

burial of the remains, both on grounds of common decency and as a gesture of renunciation of Russia's Soviet past. But Communists and other members of the old guard argue that such a move would amount to be-

trayal for millions of Russians and a denial of the country's history and heritage. A Communist resolution last month denouncing any attempt to move the body as an act of vandalism failed to gain a majority.

President Yeltsin has suggested there should be a referendum on the issue.

Pakistan endorses new Delhi leader

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S twelfth Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, was sworn in yesterday at the presidential palace in Delhi to the uncommon sound of accolades from all countries in the region, even Pakistan.

No choice of leader for South Asia's superpower could have been more popular with Islamabad. Its warm message represented a rare sign of hope that the two nations could embark on serious attempts at reconciliation for the first time since their last war — the third — in 1971.

Mr Gujral has given Indo-Pakistan relations top priority and can be expected to seek an early dialogue with Nawaz Sharif, his Pakistani opposite number, with whom he has a good personal relationship. He was born in Mr Sharif's home province of Punjab in

1919 and retains family links there. His wife, too, was born in what is now Pakistan — in Lahore, the Punjabi capital.

The Prime Minister's office in Islamabad hoped that Mr Gujral's "welcome" appointment, to be confirmed in parliament today, would lead to better relations. Almost every Pakistani newspaper welcomed the appointment.

Mr Gujral, 77, made it clear last night that he would press for the opening of cross-border trade, all but non-existent

now. He was sure of success. In a recent interview with *The Times*, he said he had "emotional" feelings towards Pakistanis because of his background and wanted relations normalised in his lifetime.

India had a vested interest in a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan because any fire in a neighbour's house was bound to spread. The aim should be to tackle the least controversial issues, such as trade and visa restrictions, and use them to build confi-

dence. Political uncertainty in Delhi has made Islamabad reluctant to consider any conciliatory gestures — such as demilitarisation of the disputed Siachen Glacier — and it may still feel that the 13-party United Front coalition is too unstable for bold decisions.

Mr Sharif is Pakistan's strongest elected leader; he has a two-thirds parliamentary majority, Islamic hardliners are sidelined, and the army appears committed to democracy. There has never been a better opportunity for Pakistan to offer concessions.

WORLD SUMMARY

Saddam to flout flight ban

Nicosia: Iraq declared yesterday that it would flout a no-fly zone imposed by American and British warplanes by sending helicopters to collect "sick and exhausted" pilgrims returning from Mecca (Michael Theodorou writes).

Saddam Hussein also issued a warning that threats to the pilgrims' safety would be "met with the suitable response to deter aggression". The White House said it would, if necessary, respond "appropriately, but we're not going to shoot down civilian helicopters".

Troops arrive

Hong Kong: Forty soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army arrived in Hong Kong yesterday, the advance party of the 10,000 troops who will replace the British garrison on July 1 (Jonathan Mirsky writes). The soldiers will start preparing barracks for the garrison, the first mainland unit in Hong Kong for more than 150 years, and make logistical arrangements.

Internet charges

Rosenheim: A German couple are to stand trial for offering through the Internet to provide children for sexual torture to sadomasochist paedophiles. They are alleged to have said they could arrange the kidnapping, rape and other sexual abuse of children for money. Murder would cost extra. (AFP)

Royal rejection

Stockholm: King Carl XVI Gustaf, 50, has upset Sweden's Freemasons and broken a 200-year tradition by refusing to succeed his late uncle, Prince Bertil, as the organisation's Grand Master. *Expressen*, the Swedish daily newspaper, reported. (AFP)

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Taking marriage for granted is the essential thing

In part two of our series on marriage, John Bayley, husband to Iris Murdoch for 40 years, reflects that the point of being married lies in its permanence

GROWING OLD TOGETHER

In Anthony Powell's superbly constructed novel *A Dance to the Music of Time*, there is a good deal about marriage, both in terms of commentary and example.

Marriage, he ruminates, can be investigated and explained, but it is doubtful if an existing marriage can be described directly in the first person and convey a sense of reality. One cannot, in fact, define the distinctive "marriedness" of one's own arrangement, though one can have a shot, as Powell does admirably, at conveying an idea of how two other people are getting on in the married state.

Marriage, Powell concludes, contains "a hundred dual antagonisms and participations — the moods of a love affair, the contradictions of friendship, the jealousy of business partners, the fellow-

feeling of opposed commanders in total war".

It sounds a strenuous business, and in a way no doubt it is. Its pains can be defined more easily than its pleasures, and Powell is not the only novelist to have chartered those pains both hilariously and gruesomely. Dr Johnson was surely wrong, too, in remarking that although "marriage has many pains, celibacy has no pleasures". Celibacy has lots of pleasures, which can be catalogued much more easily than those of marriage, and for that reason are, in the end, perhaps less worth having.

Marriedness, therefore, exists as a separate state only in so far as you don't try to define it. You must look at it mystically, or negatively, ticking off the things that are ultimately irrelevant to it, such as sex and procreation.

There is no need to be mar-



John Bayley and his wife Iris Murdoch have always listened to *The Archers* with a common sense of absurdity; even the pigs can provide them with a source of amusement

ried to be very successful at these related activities. Two people can live together for years, have a perfect sex life and a number of children, and yet have no idea what marriage is all about. Merely living with someone, as Powell notes in *Memoirs*, is quite a different experience, which, by apparently imitating it, paradoxically falsifies the idea of marriage. You must do the real thing to find out what it is. Those who are married in all but name are apt to be too conscious of their relationship to take it for granted.

And taking it for granted is the essential thing. Of all the gruesome misunderstandings about matrimony the most

sinister is that the partners "have to work on it". No doubt, because their social codes still discourage promiscuity while allowing frequent changes of marriage, the Americans tend to be conscientious workers in the marriage field. Like jogging, this has to be done regularly, and usually in public. There is also the

thought it may be formalised in a voluntary convenience. An excellent thing for practical purposes: the marriage state, however, does suggest something rather different. It can begin by a meeting with fate — an obscure realisation that the moment of destiny has arrived. I first saw my wife as she laboriously pedalled an ancient bicycle past the college in north Oxford where I was living. It was a thoroughly nasty day, and she looked cold, depressed and preoccupied. None the less, Wagnerian trumpets seemed to sound, and I could think of nothing but the absolute necessity of getting to know her as soon as possible. I found she was a philosophy don at the college next door. I was still virtually a student. She was six years older and quite uninterested in getting married, least of all to me.

A wedding did eventually take place, however; and after it I can recall very distinctly that my "fiancée" appeared to

be quite different, seeming to take for granted that all the fuss was now over. From now on we should each do what we wanted to do, but in a different way. Our solitude, as it were, existed on a more friendly basis.

There was no need to do anything about this, to get to know each other inside marriage, to suppose or pretend a wish for more of the other's company. Politicians or business people who announce that they are giving something or other up to "spend more time with their wives and families" always sound singularly unconvincing, as if indeed, as Powell put it, they were failing to convey any true sense of reality. One may indeed want to be with someone — a wife or a husband — but to say that you do in public is always suspect.

Married intimacy is not only secretive but mainly a matter of humour. Probably the whole business is comic from the start, and recognition of this is one of its greatest and most beneficial relaxations. It is certainly a help to find each other funny, part of the healing process of what the Australian poet A. D. Hope subtly referred to as "moving closer and closer apart". He meant, I

think she will tell Vronsky. Then she realises she won't be seeing him again. It is a moment at which she — and we — suddenly realise, too late, that the now estranged and divided lovers still have a sense of humour in common.

My wife and I have always found *The Archers* extremely funny for some reason; and we share this sense of absurdity by describing episodes for each other, if one of us happens to have heard them and the other not. In this way even the pigs amuse us. Such a sharing can survive even the breakdowns caused by illness and old age. Mental deterioration may disturb the free-and-equal give-and-take of married intercourse. One partner may no longer be able to think or speak as he or she once did. But the tenderness of humour and of a joke survives even this deadening interruption of the old relationship. Never mind about "caring": the main thing in a marriage of senility is to retain, from the resources of its past, enough mutual understanding to produce and prolong a togetherness of jokes.

John Bayley and his wife Dame Iris Murdoch have been married for 40 years. She has recently been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

'The pains can be defined more easily than the pleasures'

For marital bliss open an account

It is 9pm, and your husband has just arrived home. He should have been back an hour ago. Do you accuse him of being selfish and inconsiderate, just like he always is? Or do you commiserate with him about the heavy workload his boss has just dumped on him, and offer him a stiff drink?

According to Frank Fincham, Professor of Psychology at the University of Wales, Cardiff, and the country's foremost academic authority on marital relationships, the explanation you choose for your spouse's behaviour can influence the future of your marriage. Professor Fincham calls the selfish explanation "conflict-promoting"; the workload explanation is "relationship-enhancing".

"I have conducted four studies which track couples over time, and all showed that the interpretations give rise later on to marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction."

"Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a checklist of what makes a happy marriage. In the States, everyone thought good marriages were based on a 'tit-for-tat' model, where good deeds by one spouse were reciprocated by the other. That's simply not

the case. Neither is a good marriage simply a mirror image of what makes a bad marriage. The best model for happy marriages is the bank account model, where a couple builds up an account of goodwill and behaviour, which each draws on from time to time.

"Tit-for-tat, or reciprocal behaviour, is actually a signature of a distressed marriage. Spouses get locked into a cycle of conflict, which escalates until one partner finds it unbearable and backs down. This pattern repeats itself because spouses learn it's a good tactic."

Professor Fincham also spotted something interesting while observing couples talking. The way they behaved towards each other seemed to happen too fast to be planned.

He explains: "There's a lot of cognitive processing that we're not aware of." As a result, he decided to investigate the way married people analyse their relationships. The simple study led him to

MODELS OF MATRIMONY



There is no checklist for a happy marriage

"perhaps the most important finding of my career".

Participants were asked to give their reactions, by hitting a button, to 48 words. The list included evocative words such as ice-cream and death, but included four related to relationships: partner, spouse, wife or husband and the name of the participant's spouse. Their reactions were timed, and varied between

half a second and one second.

Professor Fincham discovered a surprising connection between speed of reaction, and stability of marital satisfaction. Those with the fastest response seemed to have the most consistent level of marital satisfaction, whether they were happy or unhappy. Those with slower responses displayed the greatest swings in happiness.

"It's an amazing finding," Professor Fincham says. "We have attitudes to everything, including our partners, and upon meeting spouses, some people will access their judgments more readily, and therefore register faster responses. It indicates how close to the surface some attitudes are. Even differences of a few milliseconds counted."

Exactly why being faster on the button is linked to a more consistent level of marital happiness is unclear. But Professor Fincham has a few ideas. In very simple terms, those people who view their

partners through rose-tinted spectacles will tend to interpret their partner's behaviour in this light. They take in little new information, and make an almost on-the-spot judgment. So, over time, they seem to be consistently satisfied.

Similarly, perhaps people who always have an uncharitable view of their spouse also tend to evaluate their partner's behaviour very quickly. As a result, they are consistently dissatisfied.

Slower respondents, whose emotions and attitudes are less instantly accessible, perhaps show a more malleable approach. That would allow them to interpret their partner's behaviour with less prejudice, and therefore experience greater swings in satisfaction levels.

Professor Fincham hopes to track how this accessibility varies over the course of a marriage. He has been awarded a grant of £144,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council, and is trying to recruit 200 pairs of newlyweds to assist, to date, 85 couples have stepped forward.

ANJANA AHUJA
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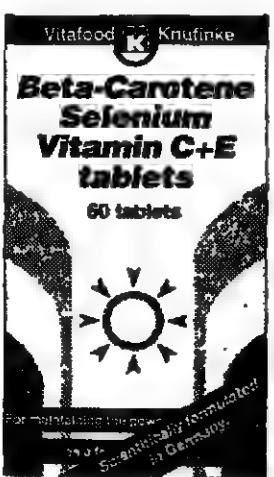
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'Regrets? — I've got hundreds'

Having come through the "lost years", Marianne Faithfull is back with a sell-out tour — but no answers to why her life turned out the way that it did. Interview by Noreen Taylor

I first met Marianne Faithfull in the late Seventies when she was married to her second husband, punk musician Ben Brierley. Reviews of her album *Broken English* had described her as a brilliant new discovery. It was so different from the previous decade when, as Mick Jagger's lady, both she and her hit *As Tears Go By* had been treated as inconsequential pop froth.

Both Marianne and Ben were staying in the pretty Buckinghamshire cottage Jagger had bought for her mother. They were heroin addicts. Flaky, fragmented, unkempt creatures, they were unable to concentrate on any topic for very long. After a couple of hours, the interview disintegrated into a rambling gabble.

Eventually I left, despairing for them, convinced "rock star in death overdose" headlines were only months away. I underestimated Marianne. When we met again last week, 17 years on, I reminded her of that first meeting. "Oh, you must tell me all about it. I'm sure I liked you."

The transformation has been extraordinary. Not only in her looks — bright-eyed, sleek, shining hair, black trouser suit, a present from Calvin Klein (Marianne has always had great contacts) — but in the efficiently crisp manner with which she conducts herself.

Only the voice remains the same: a theatrical husk, a tribute to years of brandy and cigarettes. Even her facial scars, a hangover from street life, have an edgy appeal. Compared to the broken rock babe persona of the lost decades, this reincarnation has, by comparison, an almost Thatcherite briskness.

"Pictures. Right! You want me outside, then let's get going. Neil, cigarettes, please dear," she asks the publicist. "Would you mind? Know I'm not going to last."

We are in one of the drawing rooms of a neo-Gothic pile, Braziers Park, near Reading.



Early days: Mick Jagger and Marianne Faithfull in 1967

an educational establishment co-founded 50 years ago by her father, Glyn Faithfull, and where he now lives in retirement. Marianne is visiting him while on the European leg of her *An Evening in the Weimar Republic* concert tour. The show is a celebration of the music of Kurt Weill and the lyrics of Bertolt Brecht, both long-time passions of Marianne. It has been playing to sell-out audiences across America, and earning ecstatic reviews describing her as one of the finest interpreters of that rich musical heritage of the inter-war years.

I tell her she looks pleased and at peace with herself. "Well, I feel I'm finally doing what I was always supposed to do, except I didn't have that trust in life, so I resisted. I

usually wake up happy these days, though not in a smug way."

Asked to describe herself, she opts for sensitive. "Deeply so, maybe drugs were the only way for me to cope." Regrets? "Hundreds, though I'm not eaten up by them. I try to stay in the here and now."

"If I hadn't wasted so many years, I'd probably be at the point I've reached now, anyway. Should I have taken the planned path, studied music at the Royal Academy, and sung Mozart for the last 20 years, I'd probably have discovered Weill and still be doing exactly what I am now. Instead I chose the empirical route... Oh Lord, I'm sorry." She breaks off for a moment, groaning, rubbing her forehead in irritation as though she can't face another question.

"It's just that I feel so inadequate when it comes to explaining myself, my motives, my lost years, my mistakes, my addictions. I don't really have any answers you know."

People think I must have after what I've been through, but I can't explain myself, or the circuitous journey I took. Sometimes, I quiver in fury at the waste, other times I believe I must have quite liked doing whatever I did. That I have a need for drama has never been in dispute, it's just that I'm unable to come up with reasons for what happened.

She obviously tried. I remind her of *Faithfull*, the autobiography published three years ago detailing a life that went from living with Jagger in Chelsea splendour to hanging out homeless on top of a Soho wall. "Oh, that book. It was too dark, made everything so traumatic and caused so many problems, especially with my son," Nicholas, 31, her only child, born when she was 19 and married to John Dunbar, is now father of a four-year-old son, Oscar.

"I mean Nicholas is just here in London doing his life, and my reminiscences were understandably too painful for him. And yes, of course I'm friendly with John, and Ben

too, who is now clean and running an antique shop.

"Yes, I'm friends with Mick too. And why not? Sharing so much of your life with people you've loved, how can you not be friends? Drugs were my downfall, nothing to do with Mick, who I have a great respect for. Such a talented man, and still writing beautiful songs."

"A few weeks ago in New York he sent a limousine round to pick me up after my show. He wanted me to join him in a studio where he was recording with Charlie and Keith, and we just sat around for hours talking, drinking coffee, enjoying each other. I'm not competing with the Stones anymore you see, so it's cool. I'm out of that equation. In fact most of my audiences don't associate me with Mick and that period. They're too young for all those rock chick icon memories."

Arriving at the recent *Vanity Fair* Oscar night party, Marianne was met at the doorway by Bianca Jagger who insisted: "Mick's over there. You've got to go and talk to him."

The three share a history positively operatic with drama. Marianne's suicide attempt and drug habits finally closed her relationship with Jagger. He and Bianca parted after a most acrimonious divorce. Yet there they were huddled together for most of the evening.

Since 1985, after six months of treatment paid for by one of her saviours, Island Records, Marianne has lived mostly in Ireland, in the romantic Shell Cottage, part of the 1,000-acre Carton estate, west of Dublin.

"Shan't be living there anymore," she says. "Cost too much. So I'm going to do something I've never done in my life before. I'm going to buy a house, probably by the sea in Co Wicklow. Nothing extravagant, because I don't have lots of money, which is why I have to work so hard. Decorating a house, that'll be my latest joy."

What about love? Men? Had she resigned from those joys? "I used to have a terrible block about falling in love. I'd been hurt so many times that I couldn't allow myself to do so. Being pretty, I used to be so easily manipulated by flattery, then I decided to block it all off for a while. Safety, that's what I thought I wanted. Then you may as well be dead."

"I'm in love now, since you ask. Very much so, and no, I won't say who he is, although it's quite a big thing. Loving someone and being loved, couldn't do any of that when I was an addict. You see, when you're on drugs you're locked out of everything, including relationships. Your habit is the only thing that counts."

"Nowadays, I prefer the solitary life. I don't drive, I live in the Irish countryside, so I'd have to have found some measure of peace. I feel completely at home in Ireland, accepted, part of the rhythm. There are too many ghosts in London. I'd feel haunted living there, although I love popping across to see friends, and of course my grandson."

Still a smoker, does she miss drink? "I have the occasional glass of champagne and there are times when only a gin and tonic will do, but no I don't miss any of it. Doctors can't believe how healthy I am. I have to be careful though, I'm always going to have to watch



The transformation from the rock babe of the lost decades has been extraordinary. Only the voice remains the same

it. Going to bed straight after a show with a bowl of cornflakes and a book is what I do now."

"When I was young I could stay up for four nights and still look wonderful. Not any more. Can't think of anything that would make me stay up all night now. Apart from... oh, all right then, the right man might make me stay up all night."

Gales of bawdy laughter follow, reminding you the raver has not been completely eclipsed by the woman, however resolute and business-like she may appear.

"Please, I have an aversion to the horn-again supposition,"

she pleads. "I prefer the cooler language of regeneration. Coming back to myself is what I've succeeded in doing. During the last two years of my mother's life when I was clean, I don't think she liked me quite as much. Too straight, I used to tell her that finally she was getting all of me."

"That's what I've ended up with. Nonetheless, I would never dare go around crying victory. To me that would be the greatest folly of all."

Marianne Faithfull will be performing *An Evening at the Weimar Republic* at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London, from tomorrow until Saturday.

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Major is just not up to the job

Anatole Kaletsky on the Tories' catalogue of farces and fiascos

When John Major has to make an important decision, he allegedly takes a blank sheet of paper, draws a line down the middle and lists all the pros and cons on either side. In the last full week of campaigning before the election, it seems appropriate to treat Mr Major the same way. The process is hard to encapsulate in a single article, and every voter's judgment must remain his or her own. Why then am I about to "break the habit of a lifetime by discussing my voting intention", as Simon Jenkins wrote on this page last week? Partly, no doubt, because I hope to persuade some readers to agree with me.

The main point of doing this is to explore the central mystery of this election and, indeed, of everything that has happened in British politics over the past few years. There are plenty of reasons why Labour may be elected, not least the vague desire for a change of political scenery after 18 years. But could such inchoate restlessness be enough to impel the greatest electoral landslide for 50 years? Is it why Tony Blair may end up with a bigger majority than Margaret Thatcher or Clement Attlee ever enjoyed?

The answer must surely be no. But even supposing that people are lying to the pollsters, why are they lying in unprecedented numbers? Why are they so embarrassed to support the Tories? What has the Government done to earn such contempt? People are not starving in the streets. The country has not been defeated in war, *pace* the Eurosceptics. The economy may not be performing brilliantly, but it is certainly doing no worse than five years ago. So what is going on?

Let us return to Mr Major's blank sheet of paper. On the credit side of the ledger there are numerous worthy achievements to his name: defeating inflation, running a sensible economic policy after Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism, expanding higher education, improving some public services (even while others have been allowed to crumble), steering a pragmatic middle course in relations with Europe, and so on. Most of these achievements would probably be maintained if the Tories were re-elected, despite the infighting and political chaos that would doubtless ensue. On the debit side of the ledger there are major strands of policy which would motivate me, for one, to vote against — the mismanagement of macroeconomics before White Wednesday, the disregard for the public interest in the environment and transport, the total indifference to the widening gap between rich and poor.

I could, of course, add many more policies to both sides of this account. But no listing of policies that I could imagine would be so uneven on the two sides of the ledger as to explain why Mr Major's Government has become the least electable in 50 years. To do that, we must add items of a different

kind to the list. A government is elected not merely to implement the policies it advertised in its manifesto. Policies, on the whole, are invented by boffins and implemented by civil servants. Politicians must, of course, set priorities, but their most important and challenging task, especially in a period of ideological consensus, is not to put forward programmes, but to deal with the unexpected. "Events, old boy, events," as Macmillan famously replied when asked to describe the greatest challenge that any prime minister faced.

The chief executive of a reasonably stable and successful company is usually selected not because of the new corporate strategy he proposes but, rather, on his record of competent management, of appointing and promoting the right people and of reacting to unexpected opportunities and threats.

It is when we come to the random and unpredictable events that have buffeted Mr Major that the two sides of the ledger show a tragicomic asymmetry. The Danish referendum, White Wednesday, the Maastricht paving debate, the Mellor scandal, the sacking of Norman Lamont, the "back to basics" fiasco, the election of Jacques Santer, the mad cow crisis, the "whippers" Tory rebellion, the bungled Cabinet reshuffles, the Scott report, the scandals over the Child Support Agency and the management of prisons, the endless aborted relaunches and impotent assertions of authority, right down to the latest fiasco over Neil Hamilton and free votes on European monetary union — the catalogue of tactical errors, misjudgments, confusion and pathetically ineffectual leadership just goes on and on.

None of these farces and fiascos on its own could explain the public contempt for John Major's Government. But putting them all together shows a pattern of unrelieved incompetence the like of which has rarely been seen before. While there have been many governments whose deliberate policies have produced worse results for the British people than have Mr Major's, there has never been a government as helpless and incompetent as this one in responding to unexpected pressures and in managing the nation's political affairs from day to day. That, I suspect, is why voters have turned against the Tories in such numbers.

Mr Major is a charming and affable person, who is understandably liked by the voters. But the voters have also realised he is simply incapable of being Prime Minister. If he cannot run the 350 Tory MPs, how on earth can he hope to run the country? Whether Tony Blair will prove a capable Prime Minister is another matter: no one has ever claimed that democracy is a foolproof system for guaranteeing good governments. What democracy can — and must — do is elect a government that is clearly not up to the job.



Donors, duty, dread

One sister has leukaemia; the other has the right bone marrow but fears hospitals

The headline said "Sentenced to die by my sister", and beside it was a blurred picture of two pretty girls in happier days. "A mother is facing death from leukaemia because her sister refuses to donate her bone marrow."

Worse, it was true. Mrs Angela Latham of Blackpool is precariously kept alive by drugs; her bone marrow type is rare and her sister Susan is the only perfect match. Transplantation would have a 60 per cent chance of success. But as the hospital record economically puts it, "It is unfortunate that her sister does not like hospitals". Susan Squires came close to donating, but withdrew out of fear. After a period of family estrangement, the patient, Mrs Latham, chose "to try one last throw of the dice" by deliberately making the story public.

So this is not a case of press intrusion, although there is something excruciating in the exposure of details such as the sick woman's young son going round to plead with his Auntie Sue. The family has painfully invaded its own privacy — but it may have worked. The next day we were told that Miss Squires is thinking again, particularly as it now transpires that she might not need to go into hospital. One might ask why the doctors originally concerned in this case could not have suggested this without involving us media vultures, but never mind. There may yet be a happy outcome, and if so the staring, blaring press will have played some part.

This will be even more valuable if it makes us reflect how thin is the veneer of casual everyday acceptance in such matters. It is easy to think otherwise: blood donors are taken for granted and barely thanked — indeed, the nation is gruffly told off when supplies run low. Placental are sold for medical use without anybody even mentioning it to mothers, and every week's news brings a fresh miracle, from donor ova to sections of liver which re-grow in a new body.

Hardly an eyebrow was raised when Nicola Horlick, in the flurry of interviews when she became a wronged celebrity supermodel, said that one reason she went on having children was in the hope of producing a perfect marrow donor match for her eldest. There is a vague consensus that any decent person, adult or child, would willingly hand over any

dispensable part of his or her body to save a life. And of course, many do. There is a large bank of bone-marrow donors, acting out of pure altruism towards strangers.

We determinedly focus on the bright scientific veneer and suppress the old primitive horrors of hospitals and passivity, white coats and needles and knives and anaesthetics. Doctors can be downright impatient with anybody who dreads them, so it was heartening to read the compassionate letter to *The Times* yesterday from Professor Ian Franklin, a consultant in the bone-marrow transplant unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He boldly spoke up for the "reasonable fears and anxieties" of poor Susan Squires, and robustly said that "it would be inappropriate to make light of the general anaesthetic and post-operative pain that marrow donors must endure". Donors, he says, should be counselled by an independent but knowledgeable doctor.

Poor Miss Squires. Such respect and protection was stripped from her by the ineptitude which led to the leukaemia victim, her sister, belittling her fears as "aches and pains", and throwing doubt on her sanity, while her brother-in-law mused aloud about whether a large bribe would change her mind. Their expressed harshness is understandable, because a diagnosis as serious as leukaemia throws whole families into a warlike survival mode in which they would dare or endure anything. This can make them very angry with anybody less burningly committed. Usually their target is the hospital which seems to be withholding expensive treatment, or the cautious doctor who won't put patients in for an untried drug. In the Blackpool case, the target was a scared sister, and it seems that there are few NHS systems or instincts to defuse such conflict. Why else did it take a press splash for the poor woman to be informed that she could give the stuff at home?

Hospital-phobia and operation-phobia are real enough. There are mothers who ask to die rather than undergo Caesareans, women who adopt children rather than endure childbirth, and people who prefer appalling pain to skilful dentistry. The roots of the terror may lie in childhood, in timidity, stupidity, even history. It is not so very long since hospitals were grim and dangerous places. One of my own elderly relatives, drawing on her own parents' Victorian dreads, still besmirches the reputation of this scientific age by pointing to hospitals and intoning

"Then as goes in there — they never come out". When I was to give birth, she observed darkly that she had thought of me as she bought her remembrance poppy: the connection between the carnage of Mons and the

plate-glass façade of the maternity hospital was obvious, to her. These things linger on. If you are afraid of hospitals it may not be reasonable but it is perfectly explicable. Hospital revulsion is just the flip side of the hospital fascination which fuels all those TV dramas.

Donation and transplantation give another turn to the screw. It is hard enough to have one of those conditions where you go into hospital feeling healthy and are made to feel ill; even harder to submit to "procedures" when neither the illness nor the cure is your own. Those who do it, for either family or strangers, should be given more credit. But if we are to honour the courage of those who lie down and donate, whether in the small matter of blood or the large matter of kidneys, we have to admit how much self-discipline and counter-intuitive faith it takes, even in those who are not phobic.

This is an unpopular thing to do. A few years ago *Coronation Street* had a rattling good plot going in which Tracey, the bratty teenage daughter of Deirdre Rashid, took a bad party drug and ended up with total kidney

failure. By soap-operative chance, the only possible donor was her mother's new husband, a nice Moroccan boy called Samir to whom Tracey had been consistently foul. It was leaked in advance that Samir would agree to give a kidney, and would die in the process, with pleasingly dramatic effects on the relationship between widowed mother and cured daughter.

There was discreet uproar: donor organisations and the medical profession protested that this was unlikely, and that such a plot would set their cause back years. The milder proposal that Samir die of "a rare allergy to the anaesthetic" was found equally deplorable, so the programme bucked off and had him murdered on his way to hospital. The programme-makers do not use the word "pressure" to describe what they experienced, but pressure is all around. Medical science presses us to accept blithely operations and interventions which even a few decades ago would have been terrifying to contemplate.

We are taught to have our children's teeth straightened (even, sometimes, jaws reset) for purely aesthetic reasons; to make light of the cutting and pinning of cosmetic surgery, and to consider Caesarean birth as an "option" rather than a last resort. One American clinic famously advertised it as a way "to keep your tubes honeymoon fresh". We are told about women who donate ova as if they were handing over Danish pastries, not undergoing powerful hormonal treatment and invasive surgery. The other day our local news told us of a woman who found an egg donor by putting an advertisement in the newspaper's window.

Thus yesterday's unthinkable becomes today's orthodoxy: so when a young woman so phobic about hospitals that she can't even visit one feels unable to spend two days there and have a tube put in her bone, she is held up to national contumely as the woman who "signed her sister's death-warrant". Unnatural, unfair.

Re-reading this, I see that I shall be vilified for encouraging stupid fears. Never mind. It is not healthy to let any fear stalk about in disguise ashamed to speak its name. You have to see the enemy to fight it, and we may as well. After all, the one sure thing is that before long someone will find a new bit of us that can help the sick. The finger points. It could be a bit of you.

Libby Purves

Skint reward

DEEPLY in debt and now panicking, the Oxford Union Society is paying the price for years of mismanagement by undergraduates and naked publicity seeking. Reports have the Union's debts reaching as high as £80,000.

"We're a student society and occasionally things may happen that are of a regrettable nature," says Oliver Evans, the current president. "This happens in all societies." Not all societies, however, accede to a demand from Diego Maradona, the Argentine footballer, to be flown to Britain with family and retinue on Concorde, as the Union did in 1995.

"The cash crashdown was due to the Union being run by inexperienced 19 and 20-year-olds, insisting it paid 19 on being run by students and that expert help was always at hand," says Evans. "The exact nature of the debt is a matter for a standing committee."

A series of publicity lapses, such as inviting O.J. Simpson and Page Three girls to speak, has dragged the Union dangerously into Max Clifford territory.

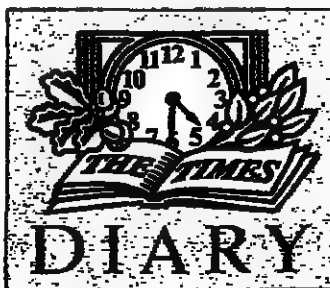
"They are unlikely to get anything like the £1 million the Union got from Mitsubishi in 1988," says

one former president. "Simply because they insist on filling the place with lascivious anoraks rather than decent debaters."

My prize for the most deconstructed political comment of the general election goes to a man parading up and down Putney High Street, the heart of David Mellor's constituency, pushing a wheelbarrow. In it is a large plastic toe.



"But these sprouts taste just like sprouts"



Around his neck hangs a sign: "Mellor Sucks".

Liver boys

WHILE his correspondents were traipsing after politicians at the weekend, John Birt, the Director-General of the BBC, was going back to his Liverpool roots on a trip to Paul McCartney's former home. The mid-terrace former council house in Forthlin Road was bought by the National Trust after Birt — a Beatles nut and Cavern Club regular — discovered that it was for sale two years ago and tipped them off. On Saturday, he achieved a lifelong ambition when he set foot in the small dishevelled room where John, Paul and George first played together to the fury of the neighbours. Birt, who once stood in as the bouncer in a Beatles gig, is ad-

vising on the imminent restoration of the house, and is drawing heavily for his information on his Scouser friend Sir Paul McCartney.

Huffin' and

LITERARY sorts are fluttering with excitement about the sale next month of one of the most important post-war archives from the world of children's publishing. All the books and author correspondence of Kaye Webb, the longstanding Puffin Books editor and formidable creator of the Puffin Club, are to be auctioned by Sotheby's.



Birt in Beatles days

Letters from a huge portfolio of authors, artists and others come with the archive. James Mason, on whether he would be a reliable godparent; Max Beerbohm apologising for having mistaken Kaye for a man; Roald Dahl on the fear of never being asked to sign books — and many others, including letters from Yehudi Menuhin, Peggy Ashcroft, Laurens van der Post and Laurie Lee.

After seeing the extensive graphic of Labour's Millbank campaign headquarters in this newspaper yesterday, Alistair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, was on the prowl. "They made out I only had one desk," he told anyone in earshot. "Actually I've got two desks." Hence his new epithet: "Two-desks" Campbell.

Scroll up

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan's uncle once tried to set up the illegal sale of the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Temple Scroll, to the American government. According to recently declassified Foreign Office documents, the late Sharif Nasser, a man said to have had a finger in every lafet in the Middle East, approached the US Ambassador in Amman, Sheldon Mills, with his dodgy deal.



Nasser: scroll-grabber

Mills wrote that Sharif asked "if I would be interested in buying for America an antiquity now in the hands of his Bedouin friends, which from his description could not be anything but another Dead Sea Scroll."

Mills felt it his duty to report Nasser's treachery to his nephew the King, but did so in the most diplomatic terms. The British Ambassador was blunter in his report to London, saying Sharif was a habitual and well-known scroll-grabber.

P.H.S

Politics as an end in itself

Roger Scruton on a new ruling class of Labour activists

New Labour came into being because old Labour was feared. You don't win elections by frightening people. Labour's manifesto should be read as a sequence of recantations, each designed to allay one of the anxieties which cost Neil Kinnock the last election. And there is something admirable in the way that Tony Blair has made this *via negativa* into a shining promise. But the Labour leadership should be sharply distinguished from the Parliamentary Labour Party. It is the tenor and composition of the party that causes me to think that Labour is still the greater of the evils between which we must shortly choose.

I adhere to an old-fashioned, some would say superannuated, Tory vision. My ideal government is one without ideals, a cheerful but disenchanted government which respects people's independence and assumes that they bear ultimate responsibility for their lives. Politics, to my thinking, ought not to be organised around a social programme, or any programme not implicit in the idea of government itself. Politics exists in order that the competing interests of the people can be brokered and resolved. Its purpose is neither business nor social engineering, but the maintenance of social equilibrium and the defence of the realm.

Members of Parliament should not begin their careers in politics, but should come to politics from some other walk of life, and in a spirit of exasperation. They should regard legislation as a painstaking procedure, and a solution of last resort to conflicts that ought if possible to be settled by other means. The greatest defects in a Member of Parliament are therefore not those which capture the attention of the tabloids: the human weaknesses which they share with the rest of us and which, when all is said and done, make them into our fit representatives. Their greatest defects are the two which arise from professional politics itself: mediocrity and half-education.

My ideal party is not fired by the ambition to reform institutions, but by a desire to conserve them, while recognising, with Edmund Burke, the need to "reform in order to conserve". It does not tinker with things long established and rarely complained of, knowing that it is always easier to destroy than to create. It contains educated people, but erects barriers against the half-educated — those hyperactive intellectuals who know enough to ask questions but not enough to understand that the real questions are unanswerable. It is suspicious of nothing so much as the political process itself, and seeks to confine politics to the areas where wise decisions can be taken in no other way — issues of law and order, defence and the national interest. It believes in a strong State, but a State above politics, guardian of civil society against external and internal threat. It is founded on the belief that society renews itself from below, from the enterprise and goodwill of its members, and not from above, by transferring income from the prudent and the diligent to those least likely to invest it.

Judged by that venerable ideal, new Labour remains seriously defective. Its parliamentary intake abounds in the middlebrow and the half-educated: people for whom discontent and agitation have been a way of life, who have made their careers in politics and whose greatest successes have involved the coercing of others. It remains the natural friend of bureaucracies, and its more vociferous members remain committed to using schools as instruments of social engineering, rather than making their reservoirs of knowledge. It has no rooted objection to legislation imposed on us by the European Union, and little appreciation of the fact that our national sovereignty is bound up with the workings of the common law, and is inherently threatened by the Napoleonic jurisdiction that prevails in Europe. Its proposals for constitutional reform are a means to create jobs for the political professionals, while the removal of voting rights from peers who are not political appointees will finally extinguish the voice of the amateur in the legislative process.

New Labour seems happy with the worst of the Tories' innovations — including the National Curriculum and the National Lottery. If it rises above the philistinism of the managerial Conservative, this is only because it remains suspicious of business, being composed of people who have enjoyed a free ride on the back of the State. Like managerial Tories, it sees loyalty as a purchasable commodity rather than an inherited duty, and the sublime conception of the Crown as the living symbol of our unity means little or nothing to its members.

None of this is to doubt the good faith of new Labour or its leaders. But the party speaks for the class that is governing everywhere in Europe: the class of political professionals whose function is to mediate between national and local bureaucracies, and which justifies its existence through constant legislation and irrational reforms. I am persuaded that the Tory party, for all its faults, remains our best hope that this class will not gain the monopoly over politics that it has achieved across the Channel.

DEMOCRACY

ESCAPTION

EAT UP YOUR

OBITUARIES

MARY THOMAS

Mary Thomas, Welsh mezzo-soprano, died of cancer on April 17 aged 62. She was born on August 2, 1935.

Although she was a protean artist, who enjoyed several simultaneous careers, Mary Thomas will most immediately be associated with the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, in her role as the long-standing principal soprano of his ensemble, The Fires of London. Her stunning appearance as the screaming red nun in his *Revelation and Fall* of 1968, riveted audiences and invested both performer and composer with immediate notoriety. Such roles as the ageing, ravaged bride in Maxwell Davies's *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*, which received its first airing in Australia six years later, only served to reinforce an impression of raw power.

Born and educated in Swansea, Thomas was already imbued with the qualities of the Welsh vocal tradition by the time she went to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Upon completing her training, she embarked on the career of a freelance singer.

Her clear yet lustrous voice responded to widely different musical challenges. She was frequently the soprano soloist in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and, as a member of the Deller Consort, gave many international performances of works such as the Monteverdi *Vespers*. With them, she also recorded the role of Purcell's Dido, of whose nobility and humanity she

was a predestined interpreter. In the same opera, she later took on the role of the Sorceress, in which her striking Celtic beauty and rich mezzo-soprano timbre made an indelible impression.

At the same time, she was active in the world of light music, and was a marvelous jazz singer and pianist. In the latter capacity, her idiomatic instinct for jazz style is preserved on a compact disc recording of Maxwell Davies's music for Ken Russell's film of Sandy Wilson's musical *The Boy Friend*.

From early on, she was also a committed exponent of contemporary music, in which her security of pitch and accuracy of rhythm were invaluable assets. More importantly, she always sang new scores in a full-blooded manner that conveyed the music behind the notes. She inspired or first performed the works of many living composers, and her insight into the needs of their particular style was remarkable.

Her vibrant soprano limned the arching curves of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's *Entr'acte* and *Sappho Fragments*, as well as the more concentrated and gnomic utterances of his *Canata* on ancient Greek texts. In Michael Finnissy's *Mr Punch*, she portrayed all of the characters, and the range of different sung and spoken voices which she deployed constituted a vocal tour-de-force which retained its impact even when performed together with a colourful puppet-show.

Numerous singers have shed their individual moonbeams on *Pierrot*

Lunaire, but Mary Thomas's interpretation of Schoenberg's masterpiece is considered by many to be the most inclusive and many-faceted rendering they have ever heard. The work's brilliance, tenderness and grotesquery were made for Thomas, and brought out her enormous histrionic gifts.

She performed it in full *commedia dell'arte* costume countless times all over the world in a manner that won the plaudits of other distinguished practitioners of the role. She made two commercial recordings of it during the Schoenberg centenary year, and her performance is a landmark in the work's history.

In comedy, her abilities were notorious. On one occasion she performed Satie's *Sports et Divertissements* at the Royal Festival and held a French audience in the palm of her hand, reducing them to such hysterics that the performance was in danger of not being able to continue.

Above all, there are her innumerable premiere performances of the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. His luminous instrumental song-cycles, including *Dark Angels*, *The Blind Fiddler* and *Excuse me*, were all written for her, and bear the imprint of her focus and intensity. Even more will remember her gallery of comic and tragic portraits in his music-theatre works. The first of these was the Red Nun *Innocent Sister in Revelation and Fall*, in which Thomas's ability to project a nightmarish Expressionist world, forged in her performances of *Pierrot Lunaire*, found a new outlet.

This was followed by *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot* (1974), in which she portrayed the real-life model for Dickens's Miss Havesham. It was a vehicle in which her ability to sustain a fine line between comedy and pain reached new heights. After the work's premiere at the 1974 Adelaide Festival, her name became a household word overnight across Australia and New Zealand.

Immediately thereafter, she repeated her triumph in London, and subsequently at many international festivals. She made the same sort of impact when she created the roles of Blind Mary in Davies's chamber-opera *The Martyrdom of St Magnus*, the Charady/Bag Lady in his apocalyptic comedy *The No 11 Bus*, and the protagonist in *The Medium*, Maxwell Davies's chilling epynymous monodrama. They haunted audiences from the first and have continued to do so.

After retiring from performing, Mary Thomas joined the faculty of her alma mater, the Royal Academy of Music, where the word spread quickly among the students that she was an extraordinary character as she was a teacher.

If possible, her human qualities outshone even her professional achievements. Magnificently and consistently herself, she made no distinction between peoples' social status, and would speak to a shop assistant or to royalty in the same way. Her warmth of personality irradiated all who came near her. She is survived by her husband, the cellist Edward Holmes. There were no children.



Mary Thomas in Peter Maxwell Davies's *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot*

BRIGADIER SIR GEOFFREY HARDY-ROBERTS



Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, KCVO, CB, CBE, Master of the Queen's Household, 1967-73, died on April 9 aged 89. He was born on May 16, 1907.

AN ALE administrator, Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, achieved considerable success in three different fields: as a soldier, as a hospital administrator and finally as Master of the Queen's Household.

Always immaculately dressed, his eye for detail was legendary. The one thing he would not tolerate was sloppiness; woe betide anyone who was late for a meeting for whatever reason. Hardy-Roberts expected the same high standards from those who worked for him as he demanded of himself.

Geoffrey Paul Hardy-Rob-

erts was educated at Eton, which he hated, and at the RMC Sandhurst. Commissioned in 1926 into the 9th Lancers, he served with them until retiring as a captain in 1937. Much of his service was spent in India, where he was able to play polo, the only ball game he liked. Apart from riding, the only other sport he cared for was fishing.

His father was killed in a riding accident in 1909 when Hardy-Roberts was still under two years old and he was brought up by his formidable mother as what is now called "a single parent". Having known this adversity, he resolved, after leaving the Army, to become a social worker. But the outbreak of war brought him back to the Army and this time his military career fully blossomed.

He served in the Western

Desert and soon proved himself an outstanding regimental officer. Although captured at Tobruk he managed to escape in the prevailing chaos with his brother. He was promoted brigadier in 1943 and served as General Sir Miles Dempsey's chief-of-staff. He was appointed OBE in 1941, advanced to CBE in 1944 and made CB in 1945. He was also mentioned in dispatches and the US Legion of Merit.

He stood as Conservative candidate for Wimbledon in the 1945 general election. But his defeat there by a Labour candidate in what had formerly been a safe Conservative seat convinced him that he was not cut out for the life of politics.

In 1946 he was appointed Secretary-Superintendent of Middlesex Hospital, one of London's major teaching hospitals. The National Health Service was about to be created and Hardy-Roberts had the task of explaining to apprehensive staff the implications of the new service and keeping up morale and efficiency, in all of which he was successful.

He proved himself an exceptional administrator and set standards for every department of the hospital. His guiding principle was that everything should be done to allow doctors and nurses to concentrate on their work, free from bureaucracy.

In 1967, at the age of 60, he was delighted to be appointed Master of the Queen's Household and once again his administrative abilities found full scope. He was responsible for the greater part of the workforce in the Royal Household and did much to ameliorate the then rather primitive living standards of the footmen, porters, chambermaids and cleaners. He also made numerous improvements to the way in which the Household was organised.

He retired in 1973, having been created KCVO the previous year, and continuing to serve as an Extra Equerry to the Queen.

All his life Hardy-Roberts lived in Sussex, being appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1960, a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex in 1964, and High Sheriff in 1965. He was deputy-chairman of King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst, from 1967 to 1981, and took an active part in many other local organisations and charities, particularly in Fittleworth, where he had his home.

In 1945 Hardy-Roberts married Edith, the widow of Colonel J. R. Macdonell. She predeceased him in 1987. There were no children.

ZDENEK MLYNAR

Zdenek Mlynar, Czech politician, died of cancer on April 15 aged 66. He was born in Bohemia on June 22, 1930.

ALTHOUGH he began his political life as a committed member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, Zdenek Mlynar was to become an outspoken critic of his country's Communist regime. A reformist, he was one of the architects of the 1968 Prague Spring. He went on to take a prominent part in the opposition to Gustav Husak's hardline leadership and was expelled from the Communist Party in 1970. As a young man Mlynar also had the distinction of becoming the first foreign friend of Mikhail Gorbachev, and from the late 1980s, resumed his friendship with him.

Zdenek Mlynar joined the Communist Party in the spring of 1946 when he was not quite 16. "In those days," he later wrote, "my communist faith was a closed system, which could not be penetrated."

He served as a secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party youth movement, 1949-50, and between 1950 and 1955 studied in the Law Faculty of Moscow University.

It was there that Mlynar got to know Mikhail Gorbachev and another fellow-student, Rostislav Tlomech (whom Gorbachev married in 1953). They became close friends. In 1967 Mlynar visited the Gorbachevs in Stavropol, where he discussed some of the reforms which he hoped would soon be introduced in Czechoslovakia.

After Mlynar's expulsion from the Communist Party in 1970, he wrote nothing about his friendship with Gorbachev until shortly after he became General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985. Having his good relations with a Czech revisionist made public was not something Gorbachev would have welcomed on his way up the Soviet hierarchy. But with Gorbachev safely in the Kremlin, Mlynar wrote a revealing article about him for *L'Unita*, the Italian Communist Party newspaper, which led to an invitation to the White House for a discussion about the new Soviet leader with President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert ("Bud") McFarlane.

Earlier Mlynar had made a successful career as an academic. He took the Czech equivalent of a British PhD and also a higher doctorate and became the author of many books and articles on

politics and constitutional law. In the 1960s his ideas became increasingly reformist and he was one of those who helped to pave the way for the radical changes introduced in 1968.

He was secretary to the Law Commission of the Central Committee from 1964 to 1968 and in 1966 was appointed head of an interdisciplinary team charged with working out an "optimal political model" for Czechoslovakia.

He was the most influential of the authors of the revisionist "Action Programme" of the Communist Party in 1968 and in that year he became, briefly, a full-time politician as a secretary of the Central Committee and from September to November a member of its Praesidium as well. In November 1968, however, he resigned from these posts because he believed that compromise with the Soviet leadership in the wake of the military intervention had gone too far. His expulsion from the Communist Party followed less than two years later.

Rather than return to academic law and political science in the post-invasion conditions, Mlynar took up his childhood interest in insects and became a professional entomologist in the National Museum of Prague.

But during the first half of the 1970s he also remained extremely active in the ex-Communist wing of the opposition movement in Czechoslovakia. On the appearance of the

dissident Charter 77 in 1977, of which Mlynar was a prominent signatory, he was dismissed from his post at the museum.

He emigrated to Vienna, where he taught political science while keeping up a stream of publications. One of his most revealing books was a volume of perceptive memoirs entitled *Nightfall in Prague: The End of Humane Socialism* (1980). He was a regular contributor also to Czech émigré oppositional publications.

After the fall of Communism in Czechoslovakia, Mlynar divided his time between Prague and Vienna, but never succeeded in making a mark on Czech politics comparable to the one he had made as a reformist Communist. He was a member of the Left Bloc which was critical both of the Communists and of the Government but which, while more leftist than the Social Democrats, could not compete successfully with the latter.

Mlynar, a tall and handsome man of exceptional intelligence, was one of the best analysts of his own transition from dogmatic Communist through revisionist Communist to Democratic Socialist.

He is survived by his widow, Irena Dubská, a sociologist and by the two children from an earlier marriage to Rita Budinova (later Klimova), the first post-Communist Czech Ambassador to the United States.



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Turner keeps his sights set on the main prize



THE antics of the hapless David James at Anfield on Saturday may have gone a long way to handing the 1997 FA Carling Premiership title to Manchester United, but in Interactive Team Football, the race is still far from over.

As the season nears its climax, there are 12 selectors who are realistically in contention for the £30,000 prize. Although it would be unwise to write off the chances of those teams lower than twelfth, recent form suggests that they are unlikely to do so. Mr P. Turner, of St Helier Jersey, remains the overall leader this week, eight points clear of his nearest rival. However, it will not have gone unnoticed by keen students of ITF that the Nobby teams, under the aegis of Mr J. Brown, have been slowly edging closer towards the top over the past few weeks.

The winner of the £250 weekly prize is Mr D. Ford, with his (inappropriately named) team Losers Eleven. Mr Ford scored 33 points over the week.

Mr Ford's team is:

Goalkeeper
M Crossley (Nottm Forest)

Full backs
T McKinlay (Celtic)
D Robertson (Rangers)

Central defenders
T Boyd (Celtic)
A McLaren (Rangers)

Midfield players
D Batty (Newcastle)
R Di Matteo (Chelsea)
J Redknapp (Liverpool)
M Thomas (Liverpool)



Pallister celebrates his first goal for Manchester United at Anfield — but had you selected him in your ITF team?



Strikers
T Coyne (Motherwell)
I Rush (Leeds)
Manager
R Gullit (Chelsea)

The ITF transfer system allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £30,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250. All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, UEFA Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Saves goal	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Saves hat-trick	3pts
Score goal	1pt	Manager	1pt
Midfield player	1pt	Team wins	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Score goal	1pt		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	3pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Score own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



Play Interactive Team Cricket for your chance to win £10,000



Full details of how to enter appear in the 16-page Cricket '97 supplement which was free with last Monday's paper. For a copy call 0171-481 3355.



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out	Player code
Club	
Player in	
Club	

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
IN	OUT	IN	OUT
81102... Dave Watson	Everton	22.00m	
42908... Paul Thelme	Southern	22.00m	
51104... Paul Robson	Everton	22.00m	
52203... Ian Mann	Raith Rovers	22.00m	
LOANED PLAYERS			
N Gudmundsson (Blackburn to Ipswich, one week); B O'Neil (Celtic to Nottingham Forest, end of season).			

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Team	(Player's name)
1	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	748	109	Def Con 3	(M Pack)	635	180	St Bartholomew	(J M Bartholomew)	611
2	Edno Ud	(D Edmondson)	741	109	Animals	(L Clark)	635	180	Oct95-ITF Champ	(M Sladden)	611
3	Sophistic And Sam	(G Foster)	739	109	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	635	180	Suchasta	(R Keenan)	611
4	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	733	115	Caroline D	(A Luckhurst)	634	180	Xpet Misallus	(M Jackson)	611
5	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	728	115	AJK	(K Hughes)	634	180	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	610
6	Nobby 3	(J Brown)	728	115	AB	(K Farhall)	634	180	Dave's First XI	(D Quibell)	610
7	John Hunt Tauton D	(J Hunt)	721	115	LFC Champs 96/97	(K Farhall)	634	180	Dickens Tigers	(T Reavings)	610
8	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	721	119	Murray's Niggles	(M MacMillan)	633	180	Three Tinklers	(M A Kennedy)	609
9	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	720	119	Top Barons	(M Bottomley)	633	190	Grimsby Army	(S Gray)	609
10	Brain's Team	(S Brown)	716	121	Glen Duffies	(S Wilson)	632	190	Totterd Five	(E Kibby)	609
11	John Hunt Tauton H	(J Hunt)	716	121	I Hate Alan Hansen	(V Cox)	632	190	Lynne's Lions	(L Holmes)	609
12	Pins Ups Two	(P Tustler)	714	121	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	632	190	Havok	(P Williamson)	609
13	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	709	124	No Middles	(J B Portwood)	632	190	Scholar 200	(P Roach)	609
14	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	703	124	WST Middles	(J Stoddard)	631	190	Albion FC	(A Stiffano)	608
15	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	702	126	Caught Lucky	(C Wright)	630	190	Wassend	(M Hugg)	608
16	Dour Rangers 3	(J Clayton)	700	126	Ebbw's 1st XI	(S Baldrick)	630	190	Caroline A	(J Murray)	608
17	Northampton AFC 3	(H J Ward)	700	128	Byzantine Bricks	(S Houghton)	629	195	Dunstable Man	(J Lacombe)	608
18	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	700	128	Bob's Boys 5	(R Calder)	629	195	Subwith Utd 3	(M Lacombe)	608
19	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	700	129	Barnet Blazes	(A Shropshire)	627	195	Tungstone Town	(J W George)	608
20	Leaves	(S Wells)	698	130	Briggs	(S Fyfe)	627	195	East Delancey	(J Pregon)	608
21	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	698	132	Inter The Bn	(M Ward)	626	195	Kingsley Tn 1	(J King)	608
22	AB 4	(A Boyland)	697	132	Agnesdun FC	(W Heslop)	626	204	Maplethorpe	(P King)	607
23	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	693	134	Moss Fenby Longhorns	(M Macken)	625	204	Black In Bristol	(D Stone)	607
24	John Hunt Tauton G	(J Hunt)	692	134	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	625	204	Roberts-Team 1	(M Roberts)	607
25	Swanton Celtic	(S McGivern)	690	134	Foxy	(M Brennan)	625	204	Dunham Monocoe	(D Wilson)	607
26	Turner's Earners 1	(P Turner)	690	137	Caroline C	(S A Luckhurst)	624	207	No Help From Dad FC	(A du Gay)	608
27	Daggers	(V Cox)	688	137	Northen Lights	(C Wright)	624	207	Wheat Field Splash	(A du Gay)	608
28	Jabberwocky	(P A Jones)	688	137	Ref Is Back To Kill 5	(J Hunt)	624	208	Isle	(A Mervin)	608
29	Jones Boys Eight	(M Jones)	690	137	John Hunt Tauton A	(J Hunt)	624	208	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swire)	608
30	Utd Boys Utd 1	(S Gardner)	690	141	It's About Revenge C	(J Goh)	623	208	William's Huggs	(H A Rahim)	605
31	Alce	(M Corless)	676	141	JS August Monthly 1	(J Goh)	623	208	Raven's Dream Team	(M Raven)	605
32	A	(G P Dolan)	674	144	Come On You Reds	(J Goh)	623	208	Inverness United	(M A Kennedy)	605
33	Partick Celtic 3	(J Hamilton)	674	144	Grafton Wilsons	(R J Brown)	622	208	Styline Stokers	(K Farhall)	605
34	Waver's Ray Goss?	(P Fromm)	674	144	Inter Outers	(J Johnson)	622	208	Perlane Hunters	(K Farhall)	605
35	Hunter's Mob	(J Hunter)	674	144	Goodfingers	(D Curzon)	622	208	Callo Fowlers	(G Thomas)	604
36	BCFC 1998	(J Birtwell)	673	144	Skyforce	(A Burton)	622	208	Buggery's Boys	(L Emery)	604
37	Styline Spartans	(T Blythe)	673	144	Star Chamber	(M MacMillan)	621	216	The Winners '97	(V Wadsworth)	604
38	Inter The Stars	(K Booth)	671	149	CUG K	(G Wales)	621	216	Lloyd's Began	(D Goodwin)	604
39	Scholar For Goals	(J Brown)	671	149	Sally No Middles XI	(C Haddick)	621	216	Wheat Field 1	(J Hunt)	604
40	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	671	149	Raggle Raggle	(D Barlow)	621	222	Jack's Nightmares	(R Crook)	603
41	Storm	(P Mills)	670	149	The Far Side	(A Lane)	620	222	Sally's Puppets II	(E G Ryan)	603
42	Bladderburners	(F Walters)	669	154	Porcelain Dogs	(A Lane)	620	222	Bobak United 1	(J Puri)	603
43	Teddy Three	(S Bear)	667	154	Cockle's Gums	(P Prynner)	619	222	Hamm's Heroes	(C Bennett)	603
44	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	667	154	Diplomatic Risk	(S Prynner)	619	222	Nellie's Heroes	(K Curran)	602
45	Turner's Earners 6	(P Turner)	667	158	Bob Hope And No Hope	(T Blythe)	619	222	Kicking Around	(J Dwyer)	602
46	Tur	(A Bates)	666	158	Yast	(K Howson)	619	222	Dwyer's Tigers	(S Miller)	602
47	JUB Sports	(P Turner)	666	162	Pudlet One	(D Blak)	618	222	Dynamos Villa	(S Miller)	602
48	Wadsworth FC	(M Kirkwood)	664	162	Holsterville	(G Watson)	618	222	Drive From Down Under	(K James)	602
49	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	664	162	Burg Hol	(J Brown)	618	222	Daddy's Aces	(C Dodd)	602
50	John Hunt Tauton F	(J Hunt)	664	162	Nobby 34	(J Brown)	617	225	Wheat Field Utd	(T Prior)	601
51	Kryotania 2	(S Roberts)	662	162	JO 3	(J Dorlandson)	617	225	Swan Up	(L Stedley)	601
52	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	661	162	John Hunt Tauton A	(V Cox)	615	225	Toby's Terrors 7	(P Wadsworth)	601
53	Garforth Seabearies	(I O'Connell)	661	162	Daniels Seabearies	(C Varnade)	615	225	Sally's Stars	(S Wadsworth)	601
54	Inter The Stars	(L Sampson)	660	162	Rebbs 2002	(C Wright)	615	225	The Danes	(C Varnade)	601
55	Club 19-30 Toms	(A Robson)	660	162	Triple Top Ten	(P Bailey)	614	240	Red Star Stars	(P Mills)	600
56	Turner's Earners 4	(P Turner)	660	162	Superstars	(J Taylor)	614	240	Real Ale Ripon	(D Sloan)	600
57	Mean Middles	(P Ford)	659	162	Bricks	(A Papadopoulos)	613	240	Rubella	(C Stoddard)	600
58	Thom Footley FC	(M Hame)	659	162	Shot On Sight 2	(P Goldstraw)	613	240	Solid Saints	(P Ridout)	600
59	Millth	(R Lockyer)	657	162	Rebbs 2002	(R Preston)	613	240	The Woe Novas	(D O'Donnell)	600
60	Always Portugal 1	(V Guimaraes)	656	162	Lecky's Legmen	(L Michaels)	612	245	AC Cambridge	(L Ho)	599
61	AFC	(M Baber)	656	162	Yahoyah	(G Davidson)	612	245	Flying Pigs	(M Macmillan)	599
62	Borley Boys	(R Crook)	654	162	Dutch Courage	(R van Ruitenbeek)	612	245	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	599
63	Fair Academic	(A Greenwood)	654	162	Fusion United	(S Shanks)	612	245	Inter The Net	(N Flood)	599
64	You're Not Very Well	(R Lastowick)	653	162	Dan Boat	(D A Sutton)	611	245	Alexpool	(C Strachan)	599
65	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	653	162							
66	John Hunt Tauton C	(J Hunt)	652	162							
67	Tully's Tops	(D Tully)	651	162							
68	Bob's Boys 1	(R Calder)	651	162							

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -12	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 -14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+1-39	
10202	V Barham	Arsenal	0.75	0 0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 -1	
10301	M Boenisch	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +24	
10302	T Flowers	Aston Villa	1.00	-1-19	
10401	S Givens	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1 -1	
10402	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 +4	
10501	S Kerr	Celtic	3.50	0 -1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+5-10	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 -27	
10603	F Grodzki	Chelsea	3.00	-6 -11	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3 -36	
10702	J Flett	Coventry City	0.50	0 0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 -7	
10802	R Hault	Derby County	1.00	-5 -11	
10901	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0 -2	
10902	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4	
10903	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 -10	
11001	S Dymally	Dundee United	2.50	+4 0	
11002	J Westwater	Dundee United	2.50	0 -55	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-3 -28	
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0 +1	
11201	G Rousseau	Hearts	2.00	-2 -5	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-1 -24	
11401	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+3 -36	
11501	M Rooney	Leeds United	1.50	0 +5	
11502	F Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0 0	
11601	N Marlyn	Leeds United	2.50	-4-31	
11602	K Pople	Leeds United	1.00	-3 -18	
11701	K Kallier	Leeds United	1.00	0 -18	
11702	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-6-15	
11703	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0 0	
11704	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0 0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-1 +8	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1 -5	
11902	S Roberts	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 -3	
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 -3	
12001	S Howie	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1 -22	
12101	S Hyslop	Newcastle United	4.00	-2 -18	
12102	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	0 0	
12201	M Croesley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -49	
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1 -3	
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-11 -74	
12401	A Gorm	Rangers	5.00	+5-10	
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	0 -10	
12501	K Prusman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1 +1	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -28	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2	
12603	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	-3 -2	
12701	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+4 -11	
12702	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0 +9	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-1 -13	
12802	E Baerdsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0	
12901	L Muldoon	West Ham United	2.00	-3 -28	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	+1 0	
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0 -4	

20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0 +8
20201	C Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1-39
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0 +49
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0 +39
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0 +61
20303	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0 0
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	-1-44
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 +25
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 +29
20403	J Kean	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 +22
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 +2
20501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	+4-38
20502	T McKelvey	Celtic	3.00	0 +28
20503	D Petresco	Chelsea	3.00	0 +20
20504	S Clark	Chelsea	2.00	0 +7
20601	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	+2 -4
20701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	-2 -10
20703	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1 -10
20704	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0 +8
20801	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0 +8
20802	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4
20901	M Melpas	Dundee United	0.50	+4-45
20902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	+4-44
20903	C Miller	Dundee United	0.50	+4-11
21001	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5
21002	C Toller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -11
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0 -6
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +4
21203	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0 -1
21202	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	+1 -18
21301	G Lockie	Hearts	1.00	0 +24
21302	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0 +7
21401	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12
21402	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	+3 -5
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0 +43
21502	A Dorgo	Leeds United	2.50	+1 -13
21504	G Hall	Leeds United	1.00	-1-32
21601	M Whitlow	Leeds United	0.50	0 +5
21602	S Grayson	Leeds United	0.50	+1 -10
21604	F Roling	Liverpool City	0.25	0 0
21701	R Jones	Liverpool City	0.25	0 -1
21702	S Hartness	Liverpool	1.50	-2 -3
21703	S I Bjornby	Liverpool	0.50	+2-48
21801	D Irwin	Manchester United	3.00	0 +40
21802	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	+3-31
21803	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0 0
21901	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	0 -11
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -1
21905	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 +8
21906	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	+0 -10
21908	V Kildner	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +2
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	0.50	0 +6
22101	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +4
22102	S Watson	Newcastle United	2.50	+3-16
22103	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.00	0 +7
22104	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00	0 +11
22201	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	0 +11
22202	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0 +5
22203	A J Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 +20
22204	N Jerkin	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-5 -16
22301	P Boyer	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1 -12
22302	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	+7-45
22401	D Robertson	Rangers	2.00	0 0
22402	J Brown	Rangers	2.00	0 0
22501	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +29
22502	P Alton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +32
22503	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0 +11
22504	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0 +10
22505	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 +3
22601	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	-1 -8
22602	F Benall	Southampton	0.75	-1 -2
22603	S Chertton	Southampton	0.75	0 +4
22701	D Kubicki	Sunderland	0.50	0 +4
22702	M Scott	Sunderland	0.50	0 +4
22703	G Hall	Sunderland	1.50	+4-6
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	1.50	0 -1
22704	J Eriksson	Sunderland	2.00	0 0
22801	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 +12
22802	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	-1-11
22803	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 0
22804	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0 -3
22903	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	0 +23
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.00	0 +3
22902	T Breacker	West Ham United	1.00	0 +2
22903	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0 +4
22904	M Bowen	West Ham United	1.00	0 +2
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	1.50	0 +9
23002	A Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75	+2-13
23003	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0
23004	D Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25	+4-40
23005	R Scimeca	Wimbledon	0.25	+4-40

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
30401	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	0 -6	
30402	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	-2 -1	
30503	A Komboare	Arsenal	4.00	0 +43	
30501	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0 +41	
30502	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0 +50	
30503	M Keown	Arsenal	1.00	0 +14	
30505	S Marshall	Arsenal	3.50	+1 -38	
30601	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0 +66	
30602	U Ebiogu	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +28	
30603	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +28	



Kitson, right, of West Ham United, has been a useful asset to many ITF selectors since his transfer to Upton Park

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Val
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0 +32	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1 +3	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 -3	
30404	N Markie	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 +6	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	+4-33	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	0 +37	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	+4-33	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0 +1	
30505	E Arnold	Celtic	3.00	0 +4	
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0 +1	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	-2-29	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-3 -6	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	+1 +1	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+2-13	
30701	L Dailly	Coventry City	2.00	0 +5	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2 +3	
30703	G Green	Coventry City	1.50	0 -1	
30704	A Eytzshok	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1	
30801	I Stimec	Derby County	2.50	0 -10	
30802	D Wormald	Derby County	1.00	0 0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	-2 -4	
30804	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	-2 -8	
30901	M Carbin	Derby County	0.50	0 -6	
30902	S Pressley	Dunfermline	1.00	+1-50	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	-1 -18	
31002	I Den Bieeman	Dunfermline	0.75	-1 -18	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4-12	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-1-14	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0 +8	
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	-1-30	
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	-1-34	
31203	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0 +7	
31301	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0 +9	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0 -3	
31401	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0 -19	
31402	M Rolly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4-11	
31501	R Montgomerie	Kilmarnock	0.75	+3-11	
31502	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	-1-34	
31503	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +2	
31504	L Radcliffe	Leeds United	1.00	-1-22	
31601	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0 0	
31602	R Molester	Leeds United	2.00	-1-23	
31603	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0 +12	
31604	J Watts	Leeds United	1.00	0 +8	
31701	P Kean	Leeds United	0.50	-1 +5	
31702	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	-1 +1	
31703	M Elliott	Leeds United	1.50	-1 -8	
31704	P Albart	Liverpool	3.50	-2-30	
31705	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0 +14	
31706	N Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	0 +26	
31801	B T Kvamme	Liverpool	2.00	-2 +3	
31802	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+5-15	
31803	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0 +34	
31804	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0 +21	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +3	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -10	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -10	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0 -4	
32001	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 +8	
32002	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0 -4	
32003	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0 +18	
32101	P Albart	Newcastle United	3.50	0 +18	
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +7	
32103	D Pascoe	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +17	
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0 +5	
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 +10	
32203	S Blatherwick	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0 -5	
32301	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5 -12	
32302	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	-5 -10	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0 +57	
32402	A McLennan	Rangers	3.00	+4-23	
32403	J Bjornby	Rangers	3.50	+4-23	
32404	G Pele	Rangers	2.50	+4-18	
32501	J Newome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0 +15	
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0 +32	
32503	B Linington	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0 0	
32601	K Mouton	Southampton	1.50	0 -18	
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	0 +3	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0 -2	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1 -1	
32605	U van Gobel	Southampton	1.50	-1 -18	
32701	A McVie	Sunderland	1.00	+4-10	
32702	J Ball	Sunderland	1.00	+4-10	
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	+4-14	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 +20	
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0 +9	
32803	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0 +14	
32804	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0 0	
32805	Metherell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -6	
32901	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+3 -2	
32902	S Bille	West Ham United	2.50	-2-10	
32903	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	-1 +8	
32904	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-1 -1	
32905	R Hall	West Ham United	1.50	-1 -1	
32906	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	-1 +3	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0 +10	
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0 0	
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +16	
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0 +12	
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0 0	

NEWS

Santer attacks 'doom merchants'

Jacques Santer was accused of interfering in British politics when he entered the general election minefield with a fierce attack on Eurosceptic "doom merchants" that was eagerly exploited by John Major and criticised by Labour.

The European Commission president was accused of interfering in British politics as he attacked people who were intent on demeaning Europe's "formidable" political and economic successes. Pages 1, 9-15, 22, 23

Election day alert after IRA phone blitz

A huge intelligence and policing operation is under way to stop the IRA disrupting polling on May 1. Measures already being taken were given greater urgency by the chaos the terrorist group caused in London and the South East during yesterday morning's rush-hour. Pages 1, 2

Youngest sports star

Katy Parker of Preston, a 12-year-old table-tennis player, will become the youngest English athlete to play in a world championship. Page 1

Campaign Laurel

Laurel and Hardy join the election today in a Labour advertisement that echoes a very similar Times cartoon. Page 1

Rapist sentenced

A psychopath who planned to stalk and rob famous women, including the actress Fiona Fullerton, was sent to Rampton high-security mental hospital indefinitely. Rodney Barnes was known as the Mayfair rapist. Page 3

Boy George sued

The rock musician Kirk Brandon, who is suing Boy George for malicious falsehood, admitted in court that he shared a bed with him. Page 3

Charity's £8m fight

The RSPCA is locked in a legal battle with the widow of an Australian businessman over £8 million he decided to leave to the animal charity days before his death. Page 3

Wealth before health

Doctors believe they are being turned into "technical monkeys" by clipboard-toting managers more interested in number-crunching than healthy patients, the BMA says. Page 5

Chocolate carrot makes tasteful debut

Chocolate-flavoured carrots have gone on sale as part of a drive to turn the vegetable-resistant children of today into the cancer-resistant adults of tomorrow. Backed by the Cancer Research Campaign, the carrots are the most bizarre of a range of four flavours aimed at the palates of children who shun vegetables and fail to absorb enough vitamin C. Page 6

Clear targets

Britain's oldest canal is to be dyed khaki or blue in an attempt to protect the fish from being plundered by cormorants before anglers can catch them. Page 6

Bridgewater appeal

A group of police officers known as "The Syndicate" pressurised an innocent man into confessing involvement in the murder of Carl Bridgewater, the Court of Appeal was told. Page 8

Lost generation

A million children are in public care in Eastern Europe, hundreds of thousands live on the streets and drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents has reached record levels, a Unicef report says. Page 17

Netanyahu unbowed

The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has emerged from the country's most serious political scandal with his power undiminished. Page 17

Rebels sell rights

Mining multinationals have signed deals for mineral rights with Zaire's rebel leader in what is being termed a second scramble for Africa. Page 18

French election

President Chirac announced early legislative elections in a attempt to give him a clear mandate to lead France into a single currency. Page 19



Michel Rieu, a wine producer in Vaucluse, inspects buds damaged by frosts that hit vineyards across the South of France at the weekend. Page 17

BUSINESS

Building profits: Shares in Alliance & Leicester, the former building society, traded at 566p on the first day of trading, higher even than the 520p recently predicted. Page 29

Property: MEPC, the property giant, is to take a £73 million charge in an effort to sort out its high financing costs. Page 29

Co-op: The Co-operative Wholesale Society raised the stakes in its fight to fend off a takeover bid by Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur, by threatening to call in the Serious Fraud Office. Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 18.2 to close at 4328.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 99.8 to 99.5 after a rise from \$1.6310 to \$1.6348 but a fall from DM2.7991 to DM2.7824. Page 32

SPORT

Football: David James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, paid the price for his disastrous slump in form when he was left out of the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Georgia. Page 56

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan made the fastest 147 maximum break in snooker history during his victory over Mick Price at the Embassy world championship. Page 56

Crickets: Rain and bad light ruined a potentially exciting finish to the England A v The Rest match at Edgbaston. Page 52

Rugby union: Nick Poppell, of Newcastle and Ireland, has been summoned to appear before a disciplinary panel of the Rugby Football Union after he punched an opponent earlier this month. Page 50

ARTS

Saintly sinner: The National Gallery is devoting an entire exhibition to one small work — Dürer's *Saint Jerome*, with its overriding mood of suspense and fragility. Page 37

Public eye: Walter Moseley, creator of President Clinton's favourite fictional private detective, spends more time these days being a black American icon. Page 37

Dizzy spell: Alfred Hitchcock's haunting 1958 film *Vertigo*, which was ordered to be destroyed by Paramount, has been restored in a three-year labour of love. Page 38

Marine remembered: At 17 Terrence McNally queued for three days to get into Maria Callas's opera debut at the Met. Now his play about her, *Master Class*, has reached London. Page 39

FEATURES

Old together: In part two of our series on marriage, John Bayley, husband of Iris Murdoch for 40 years, reflects on the role of humour in a relationship. Page 20

Late again: Your husband arrives home from work — and he is late again. Do you accuse him of being continually inconsiderate or do you commiserate with him about his heavy workload? Page 20

As years go by: When Noreen Taylor interviewed Marianne Faithfull in the Seventies, "Rock star in death overdose" headlines seemed imminent. Now the singer is back with a sellout tour. Page 21

LAW

Labour's law: Who will win the top legal posts in the land if Labour takes power? Page 43

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Sheep on show: When a busy road junction was created near Michael and Julie Turner's farm, they decided their best hope was to turn their 400 acres into a tourist attraction. Page 41

THE PAPERS

Tony Blair can hardly be beaten in this election. But for the first time since he became party leader three years ago he faces a serious problem with his image. Like Bill Clinton he is trying to please everyone, and runs the risk of becoming too smooth. — Der Spiegel

TOMORROW

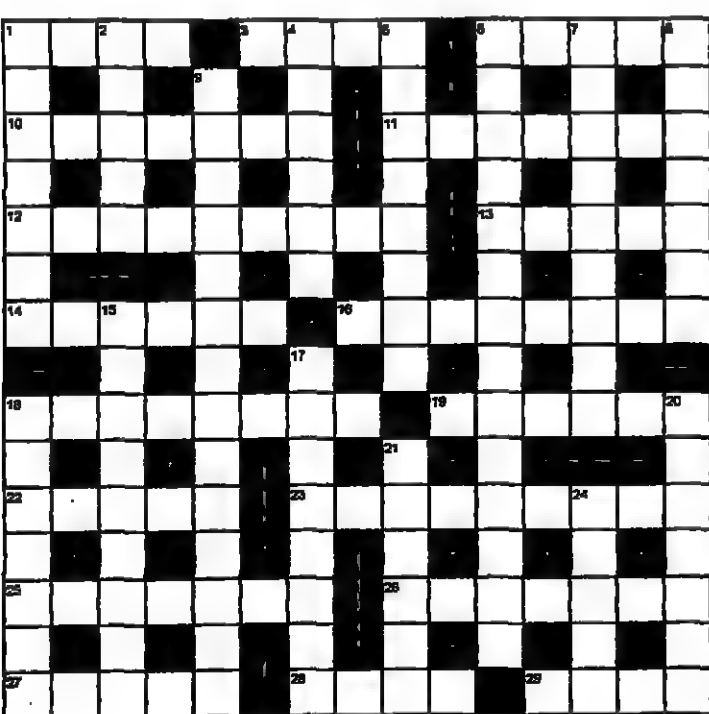
IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE
The weekly IT section reveals how computers are developing the new china syndrome

HOMES

An old brickworks in the Fens is the site of one of Europe's biggest housing projects

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,460



- ACROSS**
- A way through on foot (4).
 - Samuel's teacher has a name for writing essays (4).
 - Family of four girls, followed by three more (5).
 - Vain advice to the prodigal (7).
 - Movie queen from the continent (7).
 - A choice literary gathering (9).
 - Woman who has to polish hard (5).
 - Wit of turbulent priest (6).
 - They're essential to one's standing as a rider (8).
 - Specified limitation of ownership in legal document (8).
 - View a risky venture with trepidation at first (6).
 - Come out with me repeatedly to have a drink (5).
 - Broken rule again leads to suffering (9).
- DOWN**
- Extravagantly loud goddess thus? (7).
 - Conservative-Labour rift (5).
 - In-service instruction (6).
 - They should be able to identify any salts in a mixture (8).
 - Business studies (6,5).
 - Total confidence initial odds must be switched? Goodness! (9).
 - Premonitions Rigoletto and Richard III had (7).
 - Break-up of force and loss of rank after accepting false alibis (14).
 - Communicate what some crossword answers are (3,6).
 - What Cinderella became after twelve (8).
 - Edward lifted small firm with spirit and dignity (7).
 - Bar for a daring young high-flier (7).
 - Place of interest it's the custom to be silent going round (6).
 - Spaceman showed open-mouthed wonder (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,459

FUNGUS PENDULUM
NACREITU
HELLHOLE WANTED
VOLTMINSTREL
SNOWDROP HAT
PLAYPEN TIPPING
TANGHER
EAR ONLOOKER
NEGATIONIMS
NRTINIC
ISATIN FOOTLOG
AMMER
LISTENER SEDATE

Times Two Crossword, page 56

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. There will be a few showers but these will be confined to higher ground in the north and perhaps northeastern coastal regions.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and showers. The showers will be wintry in the northern parts of Scotland and over the mountains further south. Later the showers will peter out but thicker cloud will spread into western parts with rain by the end of the period.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, Cheshire, Leics, SW England, S Wales: bright or sunny spells, perhaps a few scattered showers. Wind light northeasterly. Max 12C (54F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N England, NE England: bright or sunny spells, a few showers, perhaps wintry on higher ground. Wind light northerly.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=dreizzle; ds=drizzle; du=drizzle; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=halt; l=light rain; s=sunny; sh=showers; st=storm; t=thunder; w=wind; x=unknown; y=yellow; z=zebra

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Macclesfield, 15.5C (60F); lowest day temp: Llandudno, 10.5C (51F). Highest night temp: Llandudno, 10.5C (51F); lowest night temp: Llandudno, 10.5C (51F).

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the news material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996.

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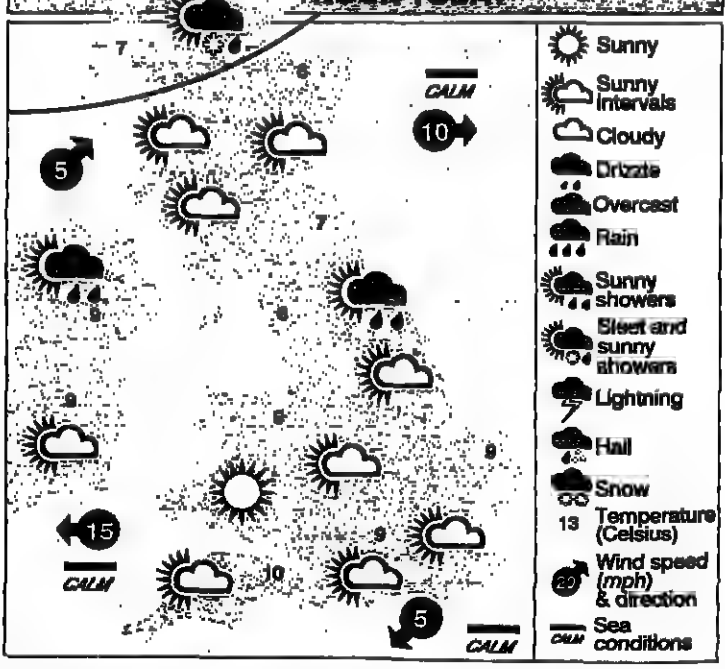
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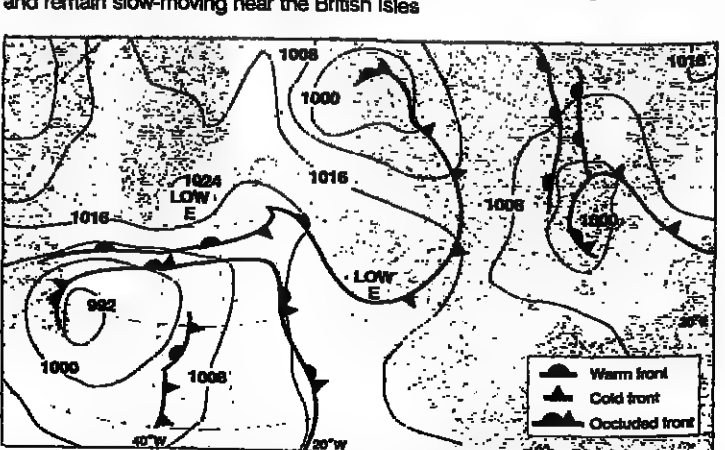
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NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart: low E will deepen and move eastwards. High E will build, and remain slow-moving near the British Isles.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	London	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Belfast	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Leeds	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Birmingham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Liverpool	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Bristol	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Manchester	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Cardiff	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Newcastle	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Edinburgh	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Nottingham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Glasgow	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Sheffield	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Harrogate	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Sunderland	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Leeds	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Wolverhampton	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
London	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Wrexham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Manchester	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0					

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	London	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Belfast	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Leeds	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Birmingham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Liverpool	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Bristol	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Manchester	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Cardiff	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Newcastle	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Edinburgh	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Nottingham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Glasgow	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Sheffield	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Harrogate	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Sunderland	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Leeds	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Wolverhampton	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
London	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0	Wrexham	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0
Manchester	02:20	6.8	14:47	7.0					

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TODAY



**How a farmer
found there's money
in tourism
PAGE 41**



Who would be the powers in Labour's legal landscape?
PAGES 43-45



**O'Sullivan's record
break gives clear
sign of his intentions
PAGES 50-56**

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
54, 55**

TUESDAY APRIL 22 1997

BUSINESS TODAY

A spokesman for Mr Regan, whose investment vehicle, Lanica Trust, is preparing a £1.15 billion bid for CWS, dismissed the threat and said

According to a spokesman for Galileo, the vehicle set up by Lanica to carry out the bid, payments of more than £1 million were made to a company named Trellis International in 1995 to pay Ronald

In the letter, Mr Melmoth writes: "If Messrs Green and Chambers had nothing to hide, why should they lie? If they are not lying then the 'Trellis role' was not disclosed to the CWS. If the 'Trellis role' was fully disclosed at the time, presumably you will have no difficulty in telling me what that role was, why you were

The spokesman for Galileo said he understood that Mr Zimet had been present at meetings at the CWS. He said that the difference between the £285 million paid to the CWS to extend the deal and the £5 million noted by Hobson, and which included fees to advise

Mr Zimet was yesterday understood to be in Jerusalem for Passover and unavailable for comment. His interests, apart from Trellis, which is registered in the British Virgin Islands, include an investment company in Geneva, a venture capital company in Israel and a company in Curacao. He is also chairman of Freepages, the Amsterdam-based publisher of

Meanwhile, Lennox Pyfe, chairman of the CWS board, revealed yesterday that a motion will be presented at the CWS annual meeting on May 17 designed to block any further predatory moves by Galileo. Some 300 corporate members and representatives will be asked to give their backing to the board's stance in resisting its overtures. A spokesman said Lanica would not be put off by the motion and would attempt to appeal diversity to members through

Mr Regan and his associates were yesterday preparing affidavits to present to the High Court this afternoon. CWS last week obtained an injunction preventing Galileo from using any material obtained from Mr Green and Mr Chambers in any bid. A High Court hearing on Friday morning will decide whether the injunction remains in force.

Gamaboes thrive, page 33

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

Pennington, page 31



End of the line: Jon Foulds, left, chairman of the Halifax, and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, at the building society's last annual meeting yesterday. Page 30

By CAROLINE MERRELL

The 52 million shares sold in the first auction fetched an average price of 522p. The highest bidder paid 546p for 730,000 shares, while the lowest paid 517p. Cazenove said the prices paid in the second

Shares in the Halifax, the next society to float, could also move to a big premium. It is expected to have a market value of more than £10 billion when it floats in June.

A black and white photograph of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is holding a large fan of banknotes in his right hand and a book titled 'Share' in his left hand. The book has a dark cover with the word 'Share' in white. The man's face is partially visible, showing a beard and mustache. The background is dark and textured.

Pennington, pae 31

Peter White saw the A&L's market price exceed £3 billion

The Jackson Network

Lord Stevens, the group's chairman, was paid £533,000. He will become part-time after the group's annual shareholders' meeting next month. He is negotiating a new contract at present to reflect that status.

By JASON NIESE

Mr Seelert said the group had never planned to sell the Bates network. However, he said that what happens once it floats is another matter.

Temps, page 32

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

A FLEDGLING diamond exploration company has set off in search of the gems from a 3,000-year-old religious artifact — and has become the unlikely darling of the Australian stock market, helped by a star-studded list of investors headed by the billionaire George Soros.

Even by the standards of the speculative Australian mining industry, Diamond Rose is a one-off. Set up by Prima Feldman, the sister of Joseph Gutnick, a well-known mining magnate, the company hopes to find the 12 gemstones of the breastplate worn by the High Priest in the Temple of Jerusalem 3,000 years ago. Known in the Bible as the Hoshen, the breastplate's 12 stones symbolize

The idea of finding the stones from the Hoshen came from the late Rabbi Schneerson of New York, who ten years ago told Mr Gutnik that he would find gold and the Hoshen diamonds in the outback of Western

Ms Feldman's belief that she will find the Hoshen diamonds is shared by James Packer, son of the media mogul, and Australian institutional investors GIO, Bankers Trust Australia and Permanent Trustees, all of whom are among the venture's 20 major shareholders.

The fact that Diamond Rose made its stock market debut on Rabbi Schneerson's birthday has only reaffirmed Ms Feldman's faith in her mission. She says: "I truly believe we are blessed... I'm convinced it's a sign from the heavens." Diamond Rose's shares jumped from 20 cents to \$A1.29 on the first day of trading, giving Ms Feldman an instant paper fortune of \$A90 million.

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JOHN CHARCOL

'Budgie' flies into legal storm

By Fraser Nelson
BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character invented by the Duchess of York, has dragged Sleepy Kids, its owners, into a \$22 million legal battle with its former marketing agents.

Launey, Hachmann and Harris (LHH), a New York company hired four years ago to help Budgie to break into the US, is claiming compensation of \$22 million in punitive damages. It claims it is entitled to the sum after marketing costs it estimates at \$2.3 million.

Robert Launey, president, says LHH received only about \$150,000 from Sleepy Kids, in spite of placing the series with Fox Children's Network and helping to launch the series on home video. The agency has since run into financial problems.

Sleepy Kids wrote down the intellectual property value of the cartoon from £2.4 million to £1.8 million last month on the grounds that its US performance was disappointing.

Competition action by Ofwat expected soon

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BUXTED CHICKENS, part of the Hillsdown food group, will shortly become the first substantial company to switch its water supply from an existing monopoly to a competing company.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, is expected to allow Anglian Water to take over from Essex and Suffolk Water, part of the multinational Lyonnaise utility group. The decision may come before the election. The contract could start in the autumn.

Anglian will build a new pipeline from its existing territory to Buxted's plant in Flixton, Suffolk. It will supply water from its own resources. Buxted will go on Anglian's large-user tariff and is expected to save between 20 and 25 per cent of its supply bill.

The two water companies' licences would be amended to allow Anglian's to take in Buxted's plant at Flixton. That might allow Anglian to compete for other business near by. Anglian says that, if it is successful, it will look for more "inset appointments" elsewhere. Competition is strong-

ly encouraged in theory. In practice, it has hitherto been confined to bidding for contracts at new industrial sites, such as the Toyota car plant in Derbyshire.

The Buxted application is one of 18 being considered by Ofwat under the Competition in Services (Utilities) Act. None has yet been approved. The second may also be for Anglian, which wants to take over sewage treatment for RAF Farnborough in Lincolnshire. The airbase has its own sewage system, but takes water from Severn Trent.

All the other proposals are from Envirologic, a consultancy company. Many of these applications require water from existing suppliers and the use of their pipes.

These involve complex issues, such as the pricing of water and common carriage rates, which would be decided by Ofwat. Mr Byatt fears that special cost-based deals brokered for large users could shift charges for investment on to household customers.



Peenington, page 31 Ian Byatt, of Ofwat, may make decision before the election

Rebels fail in Halifax board bid

TWO dissidents failed to gain places on the board of the Halifax, which yesterday held its last annual meeting as a mutual organisation.

Serge Lourie, an accountant who sits on the board of several pension funds, and Peter Judge, a Labour councillor in Calderdale, stood in opposition to three retiring board members, including Mike Blackburn, Halifax's chief executive, who had put themselves up for re-election.

However, Mr Lourie and Mr Judge, the founders of the Halifax Action Group which led the campaign of opposition to the planned £10 billion conversion and stock market flotation, gained just 290,000 votes between them. Last year they jointly notched up 385,000 votes in a similar bid.

An attempt by Mr Lourie and Mr Judge to put a cap on executive pay also failed.

The Halifax will today start to inform its members how many shares they can expect to receive when the society makes its stock market debut in June. The strong performance of Alliance & Leicester yesterday suggests that the average Halifax windfall, formerly valued at £1,200, could now be worth closer to £1,400.

Lloyd's auction deals under investigation

By ADAM JONES

LOYD'S OF LONDON is investigating several cases of suspected insider dealing in auctions of syndicate space last year.

The 1996 auctions allocated £1.4 billion of underwriting capacity. Much of this resulted from individual names leaving the market and selling their right to invest in certain syndicates, often to the new corporate vehicles.

Announcing a tighter regulatory structure for 1997, Lloyd's said yesterday that "a handful" of deals are being investigated. Richard Murphy, manager of its monitoring arm, said: "If any disciplinary action is taken, it will be published."

The auctions, a way of realising the market value of involvement in desirable syndicates, raised £35 million in 1996.

Auctions this year will offer a fairer chance to all buyers, said Lloyd's. Bidders in 1996 were able to offer unrealistically high amounts to put themselves at the front of the

queue, forcing out smaller investors. But they knew they would never pay the inflated sum since the eventual price was an average from all the sales for a syndicate. Bidders will now have to pay what they offer.

There will be eight auctions this year, held between July 8 and September 23, plus a special auction on December 16 for capacity released by members who die late in the year. The total expected to be allocated is conservatively estimated at £600 million to £700 million, but names will still not be able to buy in one auction and sell the same capacity in another.

The auctions will now solely use computers and faxes, as opposed to the traditional face-to-face system used by auction houses. This will provide fuller records to aid investigation of any insider deals, said Lloyd's.

Each seller will also be checked in advance to ensure that they have the capacity they are selling.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RICS sees 5% rise in some house prices

HOUSE prices in some parts of England have shot up more than 5 per cent during the past three months alone, according to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) published today. More than a tenth of the 259 chartered surveyors taking part in the survey believe prices have risen more than 5 per cent in the past quarter — the first such response since the boom days of 1988. But the RICS was quick to deny suggestions that the country was in the grip of a new housing boom. Demand is not as great as it was in the late Eighties and sales are lower, it says in its latest England and Wales survey covering the first three months of this year.

A spokesman for the RICS said that the latest finding was "largely due to the buoyancy of the market in London, the South East and the West Midlands". The RICS acknowledged that those areas were suffering the most severe property shortages and, as a result, prices were rising rapidly. It said that there were wide regional variations in the recovery, echoing the findings of research by the Halifax Building Society earlier this month. London still leads the way, with a net balance — the difference between the percentage of people reporting an increase and those reporting a decrease — of 90 per cent of chartered surveyors seeing an increase in prices.

Compel computer deal

SHARES of Compel jumped to a new high yesterday as the desktop computer services group sealed an agreement to join Globalserve, a worldwide alliance of computer suppliers. Under the agreement, Compel will be able to pitch its services to UK-based multinational companies drawing on support from Globalserve's other members. Globalserve is one of three such worldwide alliances, and has 30 members with annual turnover of \$5 billion. Compel's shares closed 14½p firmer at 268½p.

Securicor US offering

SECURICOR TELESERVICES, the Securicor subsidiary in America that supplies billing management systems to the telecommunications industry, is to raise about \$30 million by selling 2.6 million common shares in an initial public offering. Securicor will own 57 per cent of the subsidiary after the sale is completed. Securicor Teleservices reported profits of \$3.6 million on turnover of \$34 million in its last financial year. Its shares are to be traded on America's Nasdaq market.

Sims agrees to MBO

TWO directors of Sims Food, the meat processor and supplier, have been given the go-ahead by the company to put together a management buyout of the retail division. One of the directors, Richard Carvin, joint managing director of the retail division, resigned yesterday in order to prepare the buyout. The other joint managing director, David Gunner, assumes full responsibility for the division and will be part of the buyout team. Any outside offers for the business will also be considered by the company.

JBA races ahead

JBA HOLDINGS, the software company that hopes to make a fortune by helping to solve the millennium computer bug, increased pre-tax profits last year by 57 per cent, from £7.2 million to £11.3 million. The company saw turnover increase by 31 per cent, from £123.2 million to £161.8 million. Earnings per share were up by 39 per cent, from 13.14p to 18.26p. JBA will pay a final dividend of 4p (3p) on July 1, bringing the total to 5.1p (4p). JBA also expects to buy Presys Holdings, a French software company.

Dealer fined £250,000

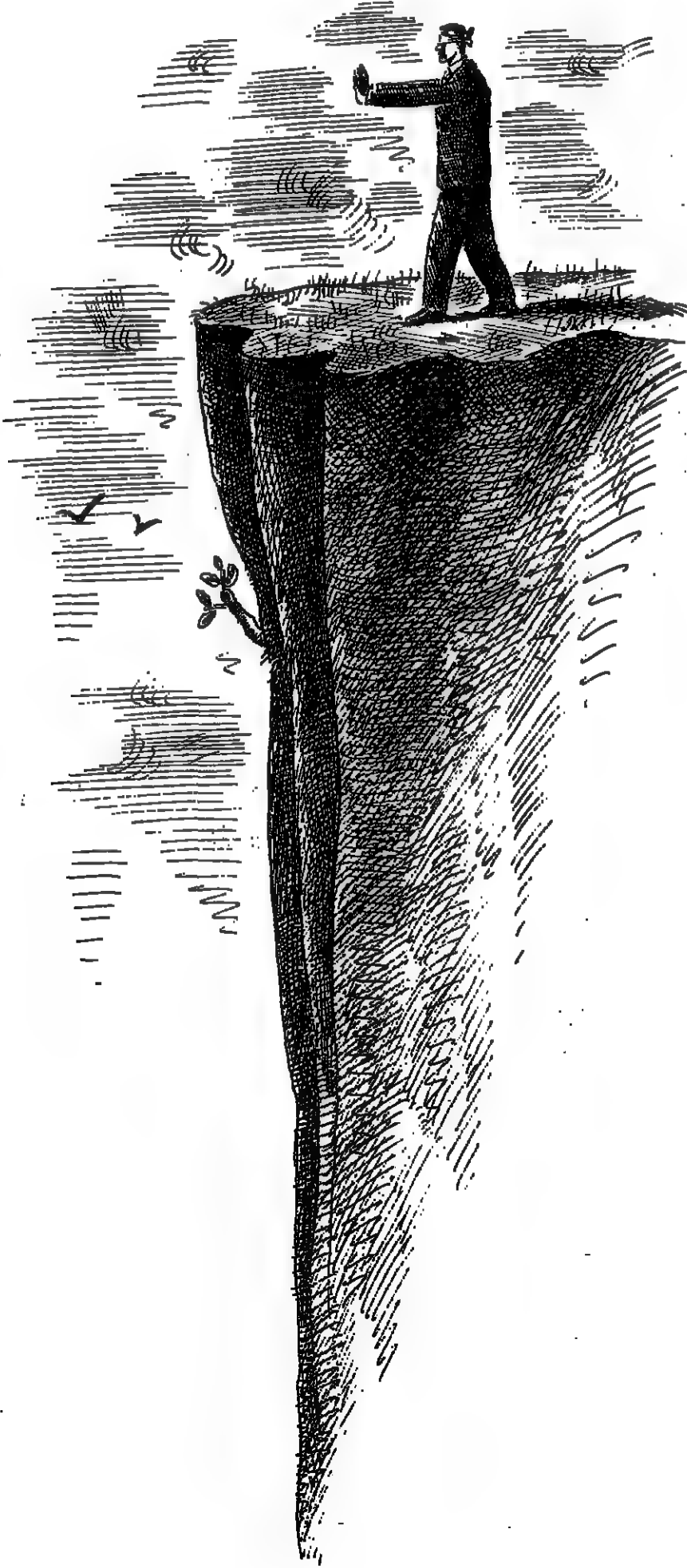
A PENNY SHARE dealer has been fined a record £250,000 with £30,956 costs by Fimbra, the former watchdog for independent financial advisers, for six serious rule breaches. City Equities had failed to warn clients about the risks involved and failed to obtain the necessary information about certain of its clients. It also failed to have "good grounds for believing that its recommendations were suitable for or of benefit to certain clients". Further, Fimbra said that the firm had made unsolicited calls to potential investors.

TOURIST RATES

Destination	Rate	Destination	Rate
Australia \$	2.20	Malta	0.857
Austria Sch	20.50	Netherlands Gld	2.812
Belgium Fr	60.45	New Zealand \$	2.51
Canada \$	2.402	Norway Kr	12.01
Cyprus Cyp£	0.870	Portugal Esc	200.00
Denmark Kr	11.16	S Africa Rd	7.35
Finland Mk	8.92	Spain Ptas	200.00
France Fr	9.82	Sweden Kr	13.25
Germany Dm	2.34	Switzerland Fr	2.31
Greece Dr	4.59	Turkey Lira	224.100
Hong Kong \$	13.40	USA \$	1.734
Iceland P	127		
Ireland P	10		
Israel Shk	5.83		
Italy Lira	2708		
Japan Yen	215.00		

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□ Strong chairmen are a rare species □ Scramble for building society shares □ Unconscionable delay at Costain

Leading from the top

IN THE great debate on corporate governance, the non-executive chairman has been assigned huge importance. Every company should have one, contend those committee men who have the time to tell others how to run their businesses.

But instead of forming a dynamic double act at the top of the corporate pyramid, the combination of chairman and chief executive which is so earnestly advocated often turns into a dismal exercise in mutual aid. The strong, experienced, chairman prepared to give an evasive chief executive a hard time appears to be a rare species.

Disgruntled institutional investors who wish to see change in the management of certain companies cherish the thought that they might have a sensible conversation with the chairman and expect to see results. In practice, too often what they meet is a dogged support for the current regime from chairmen who have stood by as their executives have failed to perform.

No doubt MEPC chairman Lord Blakenham expected the City to be delighted with the company's decision yesterday to extricate itself from some expensive financing arrangements at a cost of £73 million. But the fact is that the move should have been made years ago. Inspiration has

come not from the top but from the prospect of a hostile bid from Hammerson.

Lord Blakenham presided over a period of dismal dithering and some expensive wrong decisions at his family firm, Pearson. He has recently been replaced as chairman by the ubiquitous Dennis Stevenson, the renaissance man who combines transforming GPA with being chairman of the Tate Gallery. Now excitement is expected at Pearson.

Stevenson's arrival there has enabled Blakenham to devote more of his time to MEPC, but he must actually take responsibility for the company's fortunes since 1993, when he took over as chairman.

Sir Bob Reid's reign at Sears has been shorter but long enough and inactive enough to apologise. When, they wonder, will he decide that strong action is what is required, in every sense?

The institutions are much criticised for not stepping up in public and voicing their discontent when companies fail to

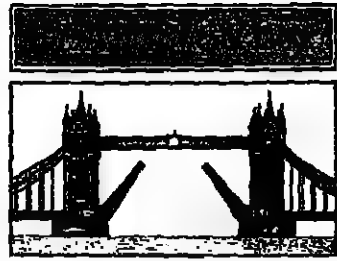
perform but they argue, with some justification, that it is far less damaging if things can be put right behind the scenes. One has only to witness the aftermath of David Herro's determined public attack on what is now Cordiant to know that dirty washing should ideally reach the laundry incognito.

But for this to be possible, they must have access to chairmen who are prepared to take a reasoned, dispassionate, and sometimes brave, view. Otherwise, it is the chairman who should be first in line to lose their stipends, with the incompetent executives following.

Ups and downs of A&L flotation

ON ANY normal reading of human psychology, the unexpected rise in the Alliance & Leicester share price yesterday must mean that even more retail investors will cash out and walk away, unable to trust their good luck holding for long.

By implication, prices in the forthcoming floats of the Halifax



et al will also be forced higher, more people will sell out and we will not be left with that terrifying 17 million-strong list of new shareholders, each clutching a handful of shares, that was always the worst possible outcome this summer. The Abbey National took several years to get to 40 per cent institutional ownership; the A&L could manage it by the end of the month, and the other floats could repeat the pattern.

All well and good, except that the special circumstances of the A&L float appear to have conspired to create yesterday's mad scramble and price hike. Because more than one in four shareholders wanted out, Cazenove was required to hold three auctions to cope with the

volume. Those auctions required fund managers to work out for themselves what the stock was worth. Bidders badly underpriced the first auction, many putting in at little more than £5. Left out, they rushed lemming-like into the market, with predictable results.

The other auctions will be more realistically priced, and soak up much of the remaining demand. And all those other new investors will have instructed their banks or whoever to sell. Result: A&L investors get an early lesson that share prices can fall as well as rise.

This will depend on two factors, what the market finally decides the A&L is worth and whether there is anyone out there stakebuilding for a bid. The second is unproven, with a bias towards the negative. As to the first, if you apply one valuation method, by stripping out and discounting both companies' cash and accounting treatment of cashbacks, the A&L is actually trading on about the same forward multiple as the Abbey National. With its management, it should be on a

little less. New investors desperate to pay for summer holidays can sell, but do not count on getting yesterday's price.

Why are we waiting?

SUSPENSION of a company's share listing is a blunt instrument and should be wielded as seldom as possible, because it deprives a company's owners, the shareholders, of the vital right to get out. Andrew Regan's Lancia Trust is not the only share suspended for an unconscionable length of time. Lancia shareholders have been frustrated for two months; the long-suffering minority investors in Costain look set to be shut out for a full half year.

Costain has come to its current sad state because of the failings of previous management. The competence of the latest bunch is yet unproven, but they seem to lack any sense of speed. The shares were initially suspended pending the sale of the US coal interests, achieved rather late. Then, the company says, there

was the appointment of a new chief executive, also late, and chairman, late again. We now await the 1996 results. The chances of receiving this bulletin before the stipulated deadline at the end of this month look slim.

There is no question of a further capital reconstruction. It is impossible to see why the replacement as chairman of one previously unknown nominee from one of the three controlling shareholders with another should hold up relisting, or the arrival of a new chief executive, or even last year's figures, assuming these get here before this year's interim are due. The suspicion is that Costain is being run for the benefit of those three major investors, with no consideration for the 23 per cent of shares in minority hands. This is simply not good enough.

Water sports

COMPETITION in water is likely to remain a minority sport after the election. Even Conservatives, for whom competition is the ultimate in political correctness, failed to find time for a complex Bill allowing rivals to commander each other's pipes. As Anglian made its first raid on a neighbour yesterday, Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, was railing at the evils of modern water meters.

Shares halted at Mackie's request

By Oliver August

MACKIE International, the troubled engineering company, raised new doubts about the extent of its difficulties yesterday when the arrival of a new chief executive accompanied a move to restate its 1996 accounts.

Dealings in Mackie's shares were suspended before the market opened at the Belfast-based company's own request. Soon afterwards it said: "Certain matters have come to light since the preliminary results announcement on March 26. These may or may not lead to a restatement of the accounts for the year ended December 31, 1996."

Mackie gave no further details although City speculation centred on Sir Sabote, who was named as Mackie's new chief executive yesterday. It was suggested he may be unhappy with the way the accounts were presented in the light of Mackie's recent slide from profit to loss. Mackie was unable to clarify further.

Premier Farnell introduces team after 82% increase

By Jason Nisbet

PREMIER FARNELL, whose shares crashed after a profits warning in February, is to hold an investor conference on Thursday to introduce the City to its operational management.

The move is an attempt to assuage doubts about the company after the shortfall in profits at the Premier electronic distribution business which was bought for £1.85 million in early 1996.

At the time of the deal Howard Poulson, Premier Farnell's chief executive, had hoped to deliver taxable profits of £160 million for the year ending February 2.

The figures unveiled yesterday showed pre-tax profits up 82 per cent at £137 million, though earnings per share fell from 35.6p to 29.1p. A final dividend of 6.8p, payable on July 1, makes a total of 12p, up 17 per cent.

Mr Poulson said the shortfall was for three main reasons. The strong pound had hit the translation of US profits to the tune of £6 million; Farnell Electronic Services, the volume components business sold in Decem-



Poulson: profits shortfall

ber, made £10 million less profit than it should have; and the core operation suffered because of the absence of particularly high margin business caused by semiconductor shortages in 1994 and 1995.

The revelations that profits would not hit targets led to more than £500 million being wiped off Premier Farnell's share price. Yesterday Mike Styles, electronics analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, echoed most City sentiment in saying the results were "bang in line with expectations". The shares rose 1p to 499p.

Institutional investors, some of whom had said Mr Poulson's job was on the line, remain cautious. "The jury is still out on this deal," said one leading shareholder.

Among the criticisms of Premier Farnell in February was a failure to communicate. Mr Poulson said Thursday's meeting was to address this.

Among the managers being introduced to institutional investors and stockbroking analysts will be Don Payzant, who runs the Newark catalogue components operation in the US, and Terry Taylor, who is spearheading the group's move into catalogue distribution of industrial products.

They will reveal a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the profitability of the UK and US businesses. A new Newark catalogue is being prepared with a simplified pricing structure and colour photography. A CD-ROM version of the catalogues has been produced and there is a buyers' guide on the Internet.

Mr Poulson said the group's manufacturing arm was non-core, but was not up for sale at the moment.

Times, page 32

Raine in talks over bid

RAINE, the housebuilding group, admitted it was in bid talks yesterday after its share price jumped by more than 10 per cent in early trading (Alasdair Murray writes).

Raine shares touched 21p after the statement, although they later fell back to close up 2p at 19p. The company said it was considering an all-share offer at a modest premium to 19p. It added that it did not expect discussions to be concluded for several weeks.

Shares in the company, which was formed in 1986 with the support of Sir Nigel Rudd, hit a peak of 137p four years ago. But the company ran into difficulties in the recession and almost collapsed in 1995. It returned to profit last year, reporting £1 million half-year profits.

Sears payout hit by MMC referral

By Sarah Cunningham

THE payout by Sears of £410 million to its shareholders is set for a further delay after a government decision to refer the proposed sale of its Freemans home-shopping arm to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The return of cash, designed to appease shareholders unhappy about the retail group's poor profit performance, was set for the summer but will not happen now until the end of the year.

Yesterday was the second time the proposed sale to Littlewoods has been referred to the MMC. The first was made in February after Littlewoods had offered around £395 million for Freemans. During the delay caused by the initial referral, Sears began talks with N Brown and negotiations with Littlewoods were terminated.

N Brown and Sears then failed to agree a price, with N Brown offering considerably below £395 million. Talks with Littlewoods were then restarted.

Littlewoods' second offer, also expected to be for well below £395 million, will be put before the Sears board on Thursday. The meeting, which comes ahead of the group's results next week, is also expected to hear a restructuring proposal from Liam Strong, Sears' embattled chief executive, designed to resolve the problems at its British Shoe Corporation subsidiary.

Meanwhile, Littlewoods has received an unspecified number of indicative offers for its chain of 135 stores. Around a dozen companies asked for the sales memorandum, but the majority are not proceeding with an offer.

Reed son appointed new chief

REED EXECUTIVE, the recruitment agency, has promoted James Reed, the company's chief operating officer and the son of its chairman, to chief executive (Chris Ayres writes).

Alec Reed, who owns two thirds of the firm, said his son was replacing Chris Kelly, a director for 12 years, who will receive an undisclosed sum as compensation. Reed was reporting a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £12.3 million for the year to December 29.

Turnover was also up, from £150.2 million to £191 million, while earnings rose from 11.1p to 15.6p a share. The company expects to open about 10 high street branches next year, and it does not foresee a slowdown in the economy until after 2000.

Reed Executive will pay a final dividend of 1.3p (tp) on June 18, bringing the total dividend to 2.6p (2p).



Notice is hereby given that the 161st Annual General Meeting of Members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7JN, on Wednesday, 21 May 1997, at 12.00 noon, for the transaction of the following ordinary business:

- Resolution No.1 To receive and adopt the Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1996;
- Resolution No.2 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr K Jones, who has joined the Board since the last Annual General Meeting;
- Resolution No.3 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr A D Lyons, who has joined the Board since the last Annual General Meeting;
- Resolution No.4 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr P W L Morgan, who is retiring by rotation;
- Resolution No.5 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr B J Brindley, who is retiring by rotation;
- Resolution No.6 To re-appoint as a Director, Lord Camoys, who is retiring by rotation;
- Resolution No.7 To re-appoint as a Director, Mr K H McBrien, who is retiring by rotation; (Mr Morgan and Lord Camoys are members of the Remuneration Committee)
- Resolution No.8 To re-appoint Coopers & Lybrand as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD: Steven O'Brien, Company Secretary.
Principal Office: National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE: A Member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a Member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms must be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 19 May 1997.



PROVIDING PENSIONS SINCE 1835

If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1996, write to Steven O'Brien, Box 101, NPI, National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

Name

Address

Postcode

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Postcode _____ Phone No. _____

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

RJB hurt by PowerGen supply contract blow

RJB MINING, Britain's biggest remaining coal miner, fell 20½p to 412p after it was learnt that it will lose a big customer from next spring.

As expected, PowerGen, the generator, has clinched a contract to buy its coal supplies more cheaply from other sources, such as Mining Scotland, the consortium, and from overseas. Last year PowerGen accounted for 13 million tonnes of RJB production out of a total of 35 million tonnes.

At one stage, the RJB price hit 400p, but closed off the bottom as some traders took comfort from the view that an incoming Labour government might force PowerGen to buy supplies domestically.

In December BZW downgraded its profit forecast for RJB and told the market that it faced a tough couple of years as it struggled to secure fresh supply contracts with the big electricity generators as the old contracts imposed by the Government run out.

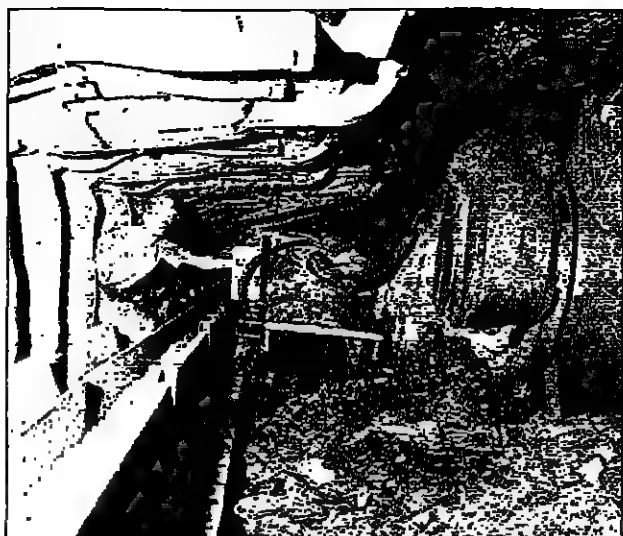
A spokesman for RJB said: "We don't see that this alters the situation with PowerGen. It is a large customer, not the largest, and remains a good customer. It still needs to buy more supplies. We are hoping to continue supplying it."

RJB operates the coalfields formerly belonging to the National Coal Board for which it paid £815 million. After hitting a high of 540p after its flotation, RJB's share price has fallen sharply.

The rest of the equity market reversed an initial 11-point fall to close at its best of the day in thin trading. The FT-SE 100 index finished 18.2 up at 4,328.7 on turnover of less than 700 million shares. Much of the demand focused on the banking sector after the Alliance & Leicester made its public debut. The broader based FT-Mid 250 was up just 0.5 at 4,518.2.

Cordiant, the advertising agency, rose 5½p to 135½p. It announced plans to demerge the business into three separate companies.

Unilever advanced 15½p to £15.94 on speculation that ICI is ready to pay nearly £4 billion for its specialty chemicals business. ICI was unmoved at 997½p. Shares of Macle International were suspended at 113½p pending clarification of preliminary results for the year to December 31, published last month. The engineering contractor said



Shares of RJB Mining ended down 20½p at 412p

matters had come to light that might lead to a restatement. The announcement of a bid approach lifted Raine 2p to 19½p. The construction company said it was in talks that might lead to an all-share offer being made at a small premium to the ruling market price. At these levels the group carries a price tag of £213 million. Symonds has followed

Shield Diagnostics ended 65p down at 497½p as several directors exercised options and sold stock. Gordon Hall has exercised 70,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p. George Zajick has also exercised options on 40,000 shares at 35p and sold them on at 530p.

First-time dealings in Alliance & Leicester got off to a

billion A&L is the 60th biggest quoted company in Britain and set to take its place as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index on June 23.

Paul Kavanagh, at Killik & Co, the private client broker, says members should hold on to their shares: "The dividend yield is high on 5 per cent for those allocated them and should continue to grow. Its a good one to hold in the current climate of low interest rates and low inflation," he says.

The A&L is the first of four building societies to seek banking status and a stock market listing. Trading starts in the Halifax in June, followed by the Woolwich in July and Northern Rock in October.

Their emergence has refocused attention on the banking sector, which has outperformed the rest of the market since July of last year. Abbey National was a case in point, adding 14p at 812½p. Johnny de la Hay, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, says there is still scope for the banks to outperform in both terms of share price and dividend growth.

The big banks have consolidated their position in the market place and, according to Laing, are capable of dividend growth of 12 per cent per annum up until 1999. Top of its shopping list are Barclays, 18½p at £10.28, NatWest, 18½p at £10.28, Bank of Scotland, 14p dearer at 330½p, ahead of results tomorrow, and Royal Bank of Scotland, 14½p better at 544p.

GIIT-EDGED: Weaker European bond markets combined with growing political uncertainty left prices lower on the day. Speculation that President Chirac is about to call a general election in France and growing fears a hung parliament in Britain after May 1, unsettled investors. They proved reluctant to open fresh positions ahead of tomorrow's £2 billion auction.

In the futures pit, the £1 series of the long gilt was 1½p lower at £109½ in thin trading that saw just 22,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 closed ½p down at £102½/32, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off ½p at £102½.

NEW YORK: US blue-chip shares held small gains in early trading. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 6.02 points to 6,709.57.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6,709.57 (+6.02)
S&P Composite	766.09 (+1.32)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18,551.06 (+109.52)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12,626.04 (+84.89)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	744.92 (+13.13)
Sydney:	
ASX	2,445.58 (+3.41)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3,347.58 (+13.19)
Singapore:	
SEAC	2,037.49 (+5.31)
Brussels:	
General	1,217.10 (+54.59)
CAC-40	2,522.07 (+34.89)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	n/a
London:	
FTSE 100	4,328.7 (+18.2)
FTSE 250	4,518.2 (+0.5)
FTSE 350	4,128.7 (+7.2)
FTSE All-Share	2,088.1 (+0.4)
FTSE Non Financials	2,164.1 (+5.7)
FTSE Fixed Interest	117.02 (+0.09)
FTSE Govt Securities	94.12 (+0.03)
Bursar	562.4
SEAQ Volume	95,758
US\$	1.6348 (+0.0038)
German Mark	2.7824 (+0.0167)
Exchange Index	95.5 (+1.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	1.4231
ESCU	1.9360
155.4 Mar 12½% Jan 1997-100	100
154.4 Mar 12½% Jan 1997-100	100

RECENT ISSUES	
Alliance & Leicester	560p
Aurora Inv Trust	100
Avalon Oil	86p
Aviva Europe	38p
BUT	1
Charlton Athletic	56p
Close Bros Proct	95p
Donatantonio	74p
Harvey Nash	200
Heal's	212p
Methven's	180
NAT (80)	52p
Newcastle Utd	117p
Norstar Secs	38p
Oxford Tech Venture	95p
Siber Energy	15p
Torch Hldgs	107p
United Overseas Grp	61p
Worldcell	17p

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Edge Props n/p (135)	18p
Luminar n/p (320)	52p
Pemberton n/p (18)	3p

MAJOR CHANGES	
RISES	
Johnson Fry	141p (+10p)
JBA Hldgs	720p (+45p)
Cardiff Prop	221p (+10p)
Bank Scotland	339p (+14p)
Innovative Tech	331p (+12p)
Cochran	490p (+15p)
Ray Bk Scot	544p (+14p)
Nat West	597p (+18p)
DFS Furniture	532p (+12p)
Abbey Nat	812p (+14p)
Tibury Dougl	655p (+10p)
FALLS	
Shield Diag	497p (-65p)
Aesco: Br Porta	280p (-12p)
Cohen (A)	375p (-10p)
Photobion	555p (-10p)
Cochran	490p (-10p)
Vanguard	172p (-10p)
Vanguard	607p (-17p)
Stand Chart	873p (-18p)
De La Rue	536p (-9p)
Black & Loe	478p (-5p)
Close Bros	464p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 34	
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TEMPUS
The selling of Bates

UNRAVELLING the mistakes of the 1980s is how Bob Seelentz describes his demerger of the Cordiant group. Months of agonising has come up with the solution everyone else thought of years ago — put Saatchi & Saatchi in a different company from Bates. This gets rid of the problem afflicting Bates, since Saatchi bought it in 1980, that it could not take on as clients anyone who conflicted with Procter & Gamble because that was a Saatchi client. Suddenly the world gets larger for Bates without getting smaller for Saatchi.

However the structure Cordiant and its advisers has come up with is not ideal. The Bates and Saatchi operations will have separate listings, at no extra cost, which implies the central overhead of Cordiant is still too high. But the Zenith media buying agency is left straddling the two new

businesses uncomfortably. And given that Bates recently took the Wendy's hamburger chain media buying away from Zenith, one wonders how committed it is to a business in which it will have 50 per cent. One suspects Zenith is making too little money to be allowed out on its own at the moment.

And then why does the Bates side get all the minor gems, such as National Research Group and HPICM? This is likely to make a much more profitable company in the medium term than Saatchi and make it look a sensible move to turn down the bid approaches from True North in favour of a float. However the shunning of True North may only be temporary. Mr Seelentz admits that anyone would be free to buy Bates once it is floated. Do they have to wait that long? Make no mistake, the "for sale" sign was put on Bates yesterday.

Premier Farnell

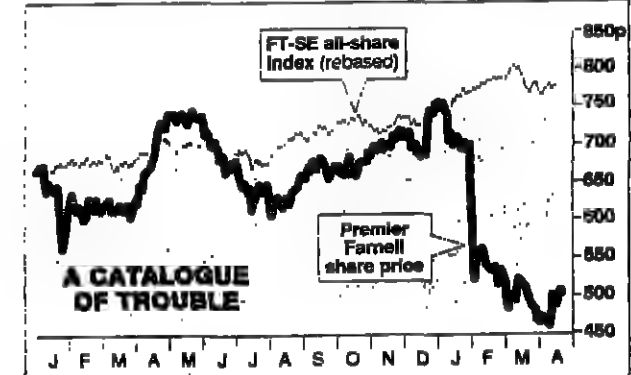
THE excuses were all lined up yesterday when Howard Poulson started the process of saving his job as chief executive of Premier Farnell. Exchange rates had cost about £6 million. The volume business sold at Christmas made £10 million less than it should have. This meant the real profits were only about 6 per cent below what Farnell had expected when it spent £1.85 billion on Premier, the giant US components distributor.

What is more, the reason this was not all that good was that the world semiconductor shortage has turned into a glut. So the premium prices Premier's Newark catalogue business was getting have dried up. But there are lots of initiatives — like putting pictures and a full price range in the

Newark catalogue and launching Farnell in the States — which will help.

But it is not really good enough. Mr Poulson gave the City a story of jam tomorrow from Premier. What he either did not know, or did not tell, was that the business was enjoying exceptional profits at the time of the purchase. So the new

vision was being built on shifting foundations. An investor presentation on Thursday may add confidence, but there is no sign of this jam. Given the market only put the shares up to 499p, leaving them nearly 200p under the price before February's profits warning, the City clearly wonders if it will ever appear.



Sainsbury

GAINING planning permission to build large stores has become very difficult, to the frustration of all the supermarket groups. This means that J Sainsbury, which wants to rebuild its market share, could be tempted to start bidding for some stores from the CWS retail business — if they eventually come up for sale.

The CWS retailing side includes 537 food stores and 32 non-food stores. The most attractive ones are the 60 supermarkets and 180 superstores. The rest are, for the main part, corner shops.

The particular appeal for J Sainsbury would be the 44 supermarkets and seven superstores in Scotland, where it is under-represented after losing the battle with Tesco to take over William Low. Moreover, the CWS food operating margins, excluding the milk business, are only 3.3 per cent and could easily be improved by

becoming part of a big supermarket family.

So the temptation to get involved is there, but it would be a foolhardy move. There will be no more than a handful of stores that really suit Sainsbury's purpose and it is highly unlikely that Laticia — the would-be buyer of CWS, which apparently wants to carry on running the retail side — would sell only its best stores to a rival. Sainsbury certainly needs to look for opportunities to steal a march on Tesco: this is not likely to be one.

RJB

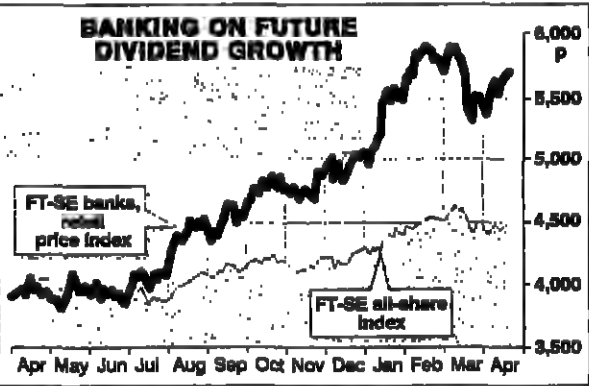
BEASTLY power generators. For years, they stood shoulder to shoulder supporting the national coal industry, buying good British coal providing good British heat to good British living rooms.

Now, they look like casting aside their co-operative past and bunking off with ten million tonnes of foreign coal at keen prices, brought courtesy

of the soaring pound. RJB is bracing itself to sell 33 million tonnes of coal this year, at a cost of some 123p per gigajoule. Now that PowerGen has ordered 4.5 million tonnes elsewhere, RJB could face a pile-up of unwanted coal, and price pressure that rises with the pound.

With the last government-brokered contract expiring next year, RJB is so far failing to impress its transition from state lapdog to market animal. But it can still rely on one loyal friend: the incapacity of ports. Imported coal is unlikely to exceed ten million tonnes in 1998, against the industry need for 40 million. If 4.5 million has already been signed up to PowerGen, this leaves at least 25.5 million tonnes available for RJB.

Having spent so much cleaning up its potential mines, RJB's debt levels are a finely balanced act with little room for error. But as long as exports stay down, there is time to learn.



COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCCOA

May	104.10	104.10	104.10
Jul	102.10	102.10	102.10
Sep	100.10	100.10	100.10
Nov	98.10	98.10	98.10
Jan	96.10	96.10	96.10
Mar	94.10	94.10	94.10
May	92.10	92.10	92.10

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$)

May	68.10	68.10	68.10
Jul	66.10	66.10	66.10
Sep	64.10	64.10	64.10
Nov	62.10	62.10	62.10
Jan	60.10	60.10	60.10
Mar	58.10	58.10	58.10
May	56.10	56.10	56.10

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

May	12.0	12.0	12.0
Jul	11.5	11.5	11.5
Sep	11.0	11.0	11.0
Nov	10.5	10.5	10.5
Jan	10.0	10.0	10.0
Mar	9.5	9.5	9.5
May	9.0	9.0	9.0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

ICE-4-10R (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel FOB)

May	17.00	17.00	17.00
Jul	16.50	16.50	16.50
Sep	16.00	16.00	16.00
Nov	15.50	15.50	15.50
Jan	15.00	15.00	15.00
Mar	14.50	14.50	14.50
May	14.00	14.00	14.00

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

NAPHE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

OFFICIAL (Volume per day)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFE WHEAT

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

LIFE POTATO (GNI Ltd)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

RUBBER (GNI Ltd)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

LIFE BEANS (GNI Ltd)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

LIFE PEAS (GNI Ltd)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

LIFE LENTILS (GNI Ltd)

May	10.0	10.0	10.0
Jul	9.5	9.5	9.5
Sep	9.0	9.0	9.0
Nov	8.5	8.5	8.5
Jan	8.0	8.0	8.0
Mar	7.5	7.5	7.5
May	7.0	7.0	7.0

By this time next week the London Stock Exchange should know whether the latest attempt to bury its troubled techno past has been successful or whether it has found yet another banana skin.

More than a decade after the Big Bang revolution ended face-to-face dealing on the Exchange floor, and after spending more than £130 million finding the right computer system, the Crest project will finally face its test of mass dealing by an army of private investors.

The 30 million-plus Alliance & Leicester shares traded yesterday will be due for "settlement" next Monday. The Crest paperless share-trading project, which cost £20 million to build and costs £23 million a year to run, should cope with few problems. The fact is that the A&L share deals will be parcelled into 30 or 40 lots so there should be little increase on daily Crest settlements, which are running at around 145,000 transactions.

CrestCo, the operating company for the new system, may be separate from the Stock Exchange, but the

Wave of flotations promises critical test of Crest project

success or failure of the computer network inextricably links the fate of the two concerns. Whichever way you look at it computers and the Stock Exchange have spelt trouble and expense since Big Bang on October 27, 1986.

Between 1985 and 1993, when the ill-fated Taurus electronic settlement of shares and registrations project was abandoned, the Exchange spent well over £100 million on technology to little effect. Worse still was the rapid turnover of chief executives at the Stock Exchange, culminating in the very public sacking of Michael Lawrence in January 1996.

At that point — and certainly until last summer — it was open talk in the City that the Stock Exchange was an anachronism, with the markets dominated by the most powerful players.

The big houses wanted everything their own way and were prepared to fight for their interests. Not only had the Exchange frittered tens of millions of pounds on useless technology but it rarely managed to pursue insider dealers and general market abusers with any authority.

The Exchange has also been criticised for its attitude to small investors. The shift to paperless share trading under Crest has meant a move away from owning shares under individual names to the use of nominee accounts. There is nothing arcane in nominee accounts. They do mean, however, that many individual shareholders behind these accounts do not receive annual reports and accounts and do not have the automatic right to attend annual meetings unless they are prepared to

pay an additional fee. The Stock Exchange also faces competition from Tradepoint, which received the go-ahead from City watchdogs last September to start business as a recognised investment exchange. Realistically though Tradepoint is still in its infancy.

The real test for Crest, and the trading volumes it can handle, will come later in the summer when the Halifax, Woolwich and Norwich Union all shed their mutual status.

In the meantime, Gavin Casey, who took over as Exchange chief executive last August, can look back with some satisfaction. A new order-driven share-trading network for City professionals is moving forward and the insider dealing unit has a new artificial intelligence monitoring system.

Many observers believe that there is a conflict of interest between the Stock Exchange's role as a regulator on the one hand and a commercial entity on the other. This could be resolved if Labour forms the next government and the promised reform of the financial services industry and the role of City watchdogs proceeds as planned.

Even so, the Stock Exchange has read the tea leaves on its commercial future and acted promptly. In London recently a delegation from China visited the first listing on the UK exchange of a Chinese company and more will follow. The listing was the result of two years hard graft by the Treasury, the Stock Exchange and the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog. That same team is looking to attract other overseas business to London.

The Stock Exchange has started its fightback and it would be rash to write off its chances of survival just yet, but Crest is a vital ingredient in that success formula.

ROBERT MILLER

Convergence of parties hits hopes for full employment

John Grieve Smith jogs our memories over election campaign's forgotten issue

One striking casualty of the convergence of Labour and Conservative policies has been any discussion of full employment, the abandonment of which was an integral part of the Thatcher revolution. The election debate on unemployment has been limited to palliative measures to help particular groups of the unemployed. However, unemployment, despite its recent fall, remains more than three times the average level in the first 30 years after the Second World War. Monetary and budgetary policy is now based on maintaining a minimum level of 1.5 million to 2 million unemployed as an essential means of regulating inflation.

Full employment is not simply a matter of fewer people suffering the frustration and hardship of being unemployed. Its abandonment, along with the accompanying measures to make the labour market more "flexible", has led to a serious growth in inequality and insecurity. Apart from those registered as unemployed, many more are effectively denied a chance to work. Flexibility has become a euphemism for the casualisation of employment rather than an attempt to balance the varying needs of employers to those of their employees.

Until recently the Labour Party remained pledged to restore full employment, a goal explicitly reaffirmed by Tony Blair at the 1994 Labour Party Conference. Since then, however, new Labour has limited its proposed attack on unemployment to helping the young and long-term unemployed and promised to follow similar (if not stricter) financial policies to the Tories. But without a stronger demand for labour, such measures will have little, if any, effect on the total number of jobs.

All the main parties now subscribe to the New Orthodoxy, with the following three main tenets:
□ Inflation should be controlled by interest rates, preferably by an independent central bank.
□ Budgets should not be used for demand management (or at least not to stimulate demand; if they reduce it, that is a bonus), and budget deficits should be kept to a minimum at all times.
□ Unemployment is purely a problem of the labour market to be solved by deregulation and increased flexibility, i.e. reducing the cost of labour. This is the doctrine on which the Treaty of Maastricht was so disastrously based. It ignores the fact that higher interest rates only curb inflation by making trade more difficult, and create unemployment in order to ease the pressure of wage demands. Measures to reduce budget deficits (which are themselves a consequence of high unemployment) are aggravating

an already serious unemployment problem in many EU countries, with potentially explosive political consequences.

The reduction of unemployment does not depend on making labour cheaper, as the various labour market "solutions" suggest. If the demand were there, most firms could increase their sales and output profitably at existing price and wage levels. The key problem is how to run the economy at a higher level of demand and lower unemployment without increasing inflationary pressures.

As things are, the new Government will come under immediate pressure to raise interest rates or taxes to avoid any further increase in demand for fear of inflation. If unemployment is to be reduced further, the two essentials are to take steps to avoid the stronger bargaining power of labour leading to excessive wage increases, and to expand industrial capacity so that stronger demand does not drive up prices or suck in imports.

The two go together because the confidence in continued expansion, which firms need to invest in additional capacity, depends on a convincing solution to the pay problem.

This can only come from agreement between the Government, unions and employers to keep wage increases to a moderate level in both the private and public sectors.

Unless this nettle is grasped, there can be little hope of any substantial reduction in unemployment. To try to enforce a strict pay policy in the public sector alone will only accentuate the threat of politically damaging disputes in key public services.

The new Government after the election should make a fresh start by setting up an Economic Policy Council with representatives of unions and employers to formulate a medium-term strategy encompassing both the demand and supply side policies needed to achieve full employment.

The alternative to continued use of mass unemployment to regulate inflation is to move forward to an era of formulating economic policy by co-operation and agreement — in fashionable terms, a "stakeholding" approach.

It is strange that new Labour is so afraid to offer us this choice: this must be the first time a British political party has gone into an election with a platform designed to appeal more to its opponents than its supporters!

John Grieve Smith is author of *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed* (published last month by Macmillan at £15.99) and co-editor with Jonathan Michie of *Employment and Economic Performance* (published this week by OUP at £15.99).

Grubby world of the gumshoe thrives in a complex market

Eric Reguly says watching the detectives demonstrates modern needs

The boys from Kroll Associates, the world's largest corporate sleuthing firm, could not believe their luck. They had been rummaging through the dustbins of the Dorset home of Roy Tazzyman, former chief executive of Davy International, and found some curious refuse: faxed letters to senior executives at VAI of Austria, one of Davy's main competitors.

Gumshoes were not supposed to have it this easy. Kroll delivered the papers to Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering group that inherited Davy when it bought Trafalgar House for about £900 million last year. Kvaerner was delighted. Here, at last, was evidence that supported its belief that Davy was leaking confidential information to VAI.

Kvaerner used the dustbin booty to persuade a High Court judge to allow it to raid the UK offices of VAI. Mr Tazzyman's new employer, where it claimed to have found thousands of Davy documents, including computer disks and technical material. Kvaerner accused VAI of industrial espionage and dirty tricks on a grand scale, triggering a legal row that has yet to conclude.

Industrial espionage, or corporate intelligence, as its practitioners prefer to call it, is nothing new. It has been a part of life since the dawn of commerce for the simple reason that it can provide crucial strategic advantages in a hurry. Stealing a dazzling new technology is cheaper than developing it yourself. Confidential information about a product launch, marketing campaign, acquisition strategy or the boss's mistress can alter the competitive landscape overnight. Kroll's revelation that the late Lord White's beloved racehorses were bought for him by Hanson helped to discredit Hanson's bid for ICI.

Andrew Regan, the young acquirer with his sights set on the Co-operative Wholesale Society, believes he is the latest victim of corporate spying. He has accused his opponents of using video cameras to keep tabs on him and his family. The Co-op, of course, might argue that it is just trying to level the playing field. It wants to know if Regan received any confidential information from the two Co-op executives who were suspended last week.

Corporate sleuthing is one of



Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted that it had used private detectives

the world's fastest growing industries. Almost every large company either has investigators on staff or employs them in special circumstances. Defence contractors like Racal would not be in business unless it kept its security experts hopping to meet the Government's "List X" requirements. The backgrounds of employees in sensitive project areas are thoroughly screened. Offices and board rooms are routinely swept for electronic bugging devices.

Traditionally, the mergers and acquisitions business has made thorough use of corporate investigators. Kroll, the industry leader, and its rivals were behind the scenes players in almost every large takeover of the 1980s and 1990s. In Britain, Kroll was secretly hired in 1995 by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer to

examine when Fisons, the British drugs company it eventually won in a £1.7 billion hostile takeover, might receive US approval for the long-delayed sale of a US subsidiary.

It is suspected that Varity of the US hired private investigators last year to determine whether any company had plans to challenge its proposed merger with Lucas Industries. The investigators — their names have not been revealed — learnt that BBA, the former British Belt and Asbestos company, was eager to spoil the party. Surprisingly, private gumshoes played no role in last year's attack by Granada on the Forte hotels and catering group. But Forte turned down the opportunity to employ investigators partly because it feared their presence would

come to light and trigger a public relations nightmare.

Since mergers and acquisitions are cyclical, corporate sleuths have had to develop other sources of income. According to Jeff Katz, the managing director of Kroll's UK office, the bulk of any large investigations firm divides into two areas: corporate intelligence and "problem solving". The former is designed to avoid a potential disaster; the latter to fix existing ones.

For the most part, corporate intelligence is a sophisticated form of due diligence. The sector is growing because corporations are increasingly dealing in international markets and often lack enough information about foreign partners to trust them. Before putting down £100 million to build a car com-

ponents factory, say, in Eastern Europe, they want some assurance that their local partners will not vanish with the loot. Katz said: "Some countries in Eastern Europe are like the Wild West. How do you know that the people you're getting involved with are legit?"

To check them out, investigators use a combination of public records and interviews, most of them done covertly, with anyone who may have knowledge of the partners in question. In these cases, investigators rely heavily on a network of local contacts that may have taken years, even decades, to nurture. The most successful sleuthing firms "buy in" their networks by hiring professionals, such as former police officers, FBI and CIA agents, prosecutors and jour-

nalists, whose livelihoods depended on the reliability of their informants and contacts. An ineffective contacts network can make life miserable for sleuths. In 1992, the Russian Government hired Kroll to track down the billions of dollars thought to have been spirited out of the country by corrupt Communist Party officials. Kroll had experience in asset tracking. It had some success in recovering the hidden assets of Ferdinand Marcos, the former president of the Philippines, and Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti. But Kroll's Russian effort proved fruitless. It had enormous trouble penetrating Russia's secretive and inefficient bureaucracy and suspected that the Russian Government, in the end, lacked the political will to get the job done.

Katz said the "problem solving" side is experiencing explosive growth. Luxury goods companies have hired sleuths to find the source of counterfeit products. Investment firms have hired them to check out rumours that a valuable group of staff, such as analysts or bankers, may be preparing to defect to a rival firm. Insurers use them to examine whether a claim is honest. Although business is booming, private investigators are having trouble shaking their "dirty rascal" image. While Kroll's examination of Roy Tazzyman's dustbins presented no legal problems, it reinforced a shabby image.

Kroll, for its part, has been accused of misrepresentation. In 1992, for example, it was hired by Austria's billionaire Swarovski family to shed some light on the failure of Zale, the big Texas jewellery chain in which it had a half interest. But the family did not want Zale's management to know Kroll was on the case. The three-man Kroll team got around the hurdle by infiltrating Zale through a small investment banking firm. But the Kroll people were exposed. Luckily for Kroll, the matter blew over; the worst outcome could have meant the loss of its investigator's licence in Texas.

A fine line divides legitimate market research and theft of proprietary information. Privacy and ownership rules differ in each country. The trick for private investigators is to use the most effective intelligence-gathering methods without straying too far into the grey zone.

For companies that employ them, the trick is to ensure no one knows they have been hired. Once that little secret is out, the sleuths can become an instant liability. Andrew Regan scored a public relations victory of sorts when the Co-op admitted using private detectives. It has tarnished its otherwise squeaky clean image.

MORAG PRESTON

Black and blue

A NON-EXECUTIVE director at CrestCo is cutting her teeth as the Tory candidate for the Labour stronghold of Kirkcaldy.

Charlotte Black, 37, the designer-clad marketing director at Brewin Dolphin, won't be back in the office until May 6. A "born and bred Fifer", currently living in Mayfair, her family have been on the board of Nairn's, the linoleum factory in Kirkcaldy, for more than a century. A local businessman has already fallen for Black's slogan ("If you want a bright future — vote Black"), offering her a nightclub bouncer to act as chaperone.

But what about CrestCo? "Alliance & Leicester is just a dress rehearsal for the big bang in June," she says. "As far as I can see, everyone is in their costume and is ready to go."

Like old times

PETER DOYLE, a director at Zeneca, is joining Oxford Molecular as a non-executive director. His appointment to the board of the group that boasts five Nobel laureates on its scientific advisory board will be Doyle's first external non-executive directorship. Tony Marchington, chief executive, first met Doyle when he was a young graduate, employed to work under him at Zeneca. "I thought Peter was very scary at the time, but we're very good friends now."

On course to wed
CONGRATULATIONS to Martyn Arbib on the en-



Arbib: keen sportsman

gagement of his youngest daughter, Melanie, a Montessori teacher in London. The 57-year-old father of two and chairman of Perpetual, the top-performing fund manage-

ment group, says he couldn't be more pleased with her choice: Andrew White, the son of a major-general, who works in sports management. Arbib, a keen sportsman himself, and lover of the turf, has been teaching his prospective son-in-law a thing or two on the golf course. A wedding has been pencilled in for this winter.

Debit side

IT'S not figures but spellings that Sainsbury's Bank is struggling with. The supermarket turned finance house promises to give 1,000 reward points to customers opening a savings account whose names have been wrongly spell on

their cashcard. Mark Rollason, a civil servant living in Coventry, picked up his bonus points when the bank misspelt his name "Rollanson". Keen to cover its mistake, the bank wrote him a letter to apologise, addressed to Mr Rollanson.

Back in business

ALMOST a year since *BusinessAge* magazine disappeared from the newsstands, it is about to be relaunched. First published by Tom Rubythorn in 1992, it was sold to VNU Business Publications in January 1995. Anil Bhoyral, 30, the former associate editor of *Sunday Business*, whose political leanings

were a natural fit with the business weekly, has been appointed as the editor. Charles Kerr, 25, the former sales director of *Sunday Business*, has been appointed as the publishing director. Readers will remember that both men were caught in London Zoo, attempting to steal a penguin.

Hot plate

DAVID PROCTOR, managing director of Xpedite Systems, the fax service provider, has been showing off his latest toy. Squeezed in the executive parking spot of the York-based company is a rather unexciting executive saloon, emblazoned with the number plate "AI FAX". Proctor forked out more than £1,000 for the Eighties throwback, and insists that it was money well spent. "My children think it's terrific," he boasts.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Notice to Members

Results of Voting on Special Resolution

The Special Resolution to approve the demutualisation and flotation of The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, was passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society held on 18 April 1997 at the London Arena, 36 Limeharbour, London E14 9TH. The result of the poll vote, as reported by the Scrutineers Ernst & Young, was as follows:

Votes cast in favour of the Special Resolution: 1,837,382
Votes cast against the Special Resolution: 21,052

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Graham Jones
Secretary
8 Surrey Street
Norwich NR1 3NG



Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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Staveley to sell division as part of refocusing

BY OLIVER AUGUST

STAVELEY INDUSTRIES is to sell its £135 million measurements business as part of a strategic review that will see the group focus on the service sector.

Roy Hitchens, the chief executive, said he would prefer to sell Staveley Measurements as one business but may consider selling off parts of it if that would

significantly increase the sale price of the business.

Barrings, Staveley's appointed banker, has received statements of interest from companies in the UK and in the US. The measurements business is split geographically between Europe and America.

Mr Hitchens said: "We prefer to sell it all in one because it would be quicker. But this is no fire sale. We are looking at a six-month programme and it's early days."

The sale of Staveley Measurements will result in a stronger balance sheet and a more focused approach which will enhance the growth rate of Staveley Services, the group said.

Cost cutting in the group management structure is also part of the new strategic focus. Redundancies have not been ruled out in the company's quest for savings.

The group said it has identified annual savings in the region of £3 million involving one-off exceptional redundancy and other costs of approximately £4 million.

Harry Tuley, chairman, said: "The recent strategic review has confirmed the board's belief that increasing the focus on our services businesses will create excellent prospects for sustainable profitable growth."

Staveley Measurements comprises Weigh-Tronix and Salter Weighing, Chronos Richardson Systems and Staveley NDT Technologies. The division generated operating profits of £5.6 million in 1995-96 from sales of £135.6 million.

Mr Hitchens said: "We had to make a decision in terms of focusing. And we decided to focus on services which have better growth prospects and more investment opportunities. We couldn't afford to invest in both services and measurements."

Staveley Minerals, the UK salt and brine businesses, will not be sold even though Mr Hitchens conceded that there are no synergy benefits. The division is being kept for its strong profit and cash contributions.

After the strategic review, the group expects to have "a stronger balance sheet and more focused approach to enhance significantly the growth rate of the services business."

The shares responded to the news of the sale with a 5½p rise to close at 179½p.

Venture capital deals top £3bn

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRITISH venture capital companies had another bumper year in 1996, investing a record £3.2 billion worldwide.

Annual figures published yesterday by the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) show that investment in the UK rose by 31 per cent last year to £2.8 billion. In the past five years UK investment by venture capital firms has nearly tripled from £998 million.

The venture capital industry provides funding for young companies but its main source of growth has been in backing management buy-outs and buyouts. Investment in start-ups and other early-stage companies rose 54 per cent to £131 million but was dwarfed by the record £2.1 billion invested in buy-outs and buyouts.

The average size of financing in deals done last year increased to £2.3 million from £1.9 million. The South East grabbed the lion's share of funding with £1.2 billion and it doubled in the North West to £355 million and to £82 million in East Anglia.

David Quysor, chairman of the BVCA, said: "Investment into venture capital funds needs to be increased and sustained so that the industry can continue to play its vital role in supporting the successful high-growth businesses of tomorrow that create real jobs and boost the UK economy."



John McGrath, left, and George Bull have overseen a series of disposals in the past 12 months

GrandMet sells Aunt Nellies

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the drinks and food company, will take a £39 million charge at the half-year stage after the sale yesterday of its US fruit and vegetable business for £15 million.

GrandMet is disposing of the Aunt Nellies Farm Kitchen business. It was acquired as part of The Pillsbury Company in 1988 and is being

sold to Seneca Foods. The company said the exceptional charge included £28 million of previously written-off goodwill. The business broke even on a turnover of \$30 million last year.

Paul Walsh, chief executive of Pillsbury, said the sale was part of the company's drive to dispose of low-return businesses. GrandMet has made a

series of disposals, including the sale of most of its European food operations, since John McGrath took over as group chief executive last year, succeeding George Bull, who is now the chairman.

Shares in the company rose to a five-year high, advancing 8½p to close at 508½p, on continuing positive comment from analysts.

Andersen warning over end of PRP

BY GEORGE STEVILL

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, which claims to be a pioneer of profit-related pay (PRP), believes that the phasing out of tax relief on such schemes between now and the year 2000 will push up wage costs for all British businesses. Costs could rise as much as 8.4 per cent, according to an Arthur Andersen survey.

The business advisers believe that retailing, banking and the media, where profit-related schemes are common, will be especially hit but that the ripple effects will extend to the wider business community.

Arthur Andersen believes that more than 14,000 businesses covering 3.7 million workers could be affected. Brian Friedman, head of Andersen human capital services, says: "In many cases there is no easy replacement, so it is a question of how the extra tax is shared between employers and staff."

While it is too early to make definite predictions, at least one third of respondents are looking simply to revert to pre-PRP arrangements. Such a strategy will impose inevitable pain on employees and may eventually push up costs for employers too.

"Unless a PRP exit strategy is clearly communicated to employees, they will feel they are losing out. Employers will then find they have been boxed into expedient action and may end up having to adopt the most expensive PRP replacement option."

A typical business would experience an extra 3.5 per cent increase in its payroll costs, if forced to top up employees pay. In extreme cases, the costs could be as much as 8.4 per cent.

Arthur Andersen said that on March 31 two thirds of respondents to its survey had not told staff of the implications of the phasing out of PRP. The consultants say: "An average employee earning £20,000 a year stands to lose £2,070 over the next three years as tax relief on PRP is phased out. Once wage packets are hit in spring 1998, employees will be concerned. Employers should plan replacement programmes now."

Routes for exiting from PRP include share-based incentive plans, reverting to pre-PRP salaries, benefit packages and making up shortfalls in pay.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Symonds uncovers 'holes in accounts'

SYMONDS, the engineering group, yesterday said that it had discovered "significant breaches of internal controls" in its precision engineering division. The company, based in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, issued a profits warning earlier this month. It has appointed Arthur Andersen, the firm of accountants, to investigate. Rod Ackrill, Symonds's chairman, said: "We have found some holes in the accounts which have managed to wipe out the division's profits for this year. But they won't wipe out the group's profits." Mr Ackrill said that the group's recent acquisitions and its core electronic assembly and printed circuitboard businesses had performed in line with or exceeded expectations.

However, Symonds yesterday gave warning that its pre-tax profits were likely to be lower than expected. An estimate of the results is expected to be included in a trading statement next month, while the final results are scheduled to be announced in June. Meanwhile, Ken Garner, who was dismissed as managing director of the precision engineering division earlier this month, has been replaced by Pat Curran, who joins Symonds from Burnfield, the engineering group based in Solihull, West Midlands.

AT&T hit by launch costs

AT&T, the world's largest telephone company and British Telecom's main international competitor, reported a 17 per cent drop in first-quarter profits to \$1.13 billion, held back by the launch costs of several new operations. A new online business and expanded local and international services pushed up AT&T's expenses but analysts said the results were in line with expectations. Revenues advanced marginally to \$13.05 billion for the quarter as performance improved on local phone services and other operations.

British Fittings expands

BRITISH FITTINGS, the stockholding and distribution company, is expanding its business through the £2.8 million acquisition of the pipeline equipment distribution arm of J Saville Gordon (Tubes & Fittings). British Fittings will assume responsibility for paying trade creditors and will collect £3.6 million of debt of Saville's behalf. The purchased business made a pre-tax profit of £760,000 last year on sales of £13.5 million. British Fitting is funding the deal by issuing 1.5 million shares at 113p.

Bisichi lifts profits 41%

BISICHI MINING, the mining investment company, raised pre-tax profits 41 per cent to £161,000 in the year to December 31. Net assets rose 1 per cent to £6.14 million and earnings were up 48 per cent to 1.35p a share. The dividend increased 8 per cent to 0.81p. The company returned to full-scale mining production for the first time since 1983 and expects the Black Wattle Colliery in South Africa to make a good contribution in 1997 because of strong demand for low-cost extraction coal. The shares rose 2p to 33½p.

Hamlet buys in JRI

HAMLET GROUP, the distribution group, is buying in the 49 per cent minority in its subsidiary JRI for £3.75 million. Hamlet is paying £250,000 cash and reducing inter-company debt by £3.5 million. JRI made £3.2 million in the 15 months to June 30, 1996, on sales of £38.8 million. Acquisition of the minority is subject to shareholder approval. The company also announced the appointment of John Lusher, a former main board director of Marks & Spencer, as chairman to replace Malcolm Dagul, who resigns at the end of the month.

Zeneca invests £17m in fungicide plant

BY PAUL DURMAN

ZENECA Agrochemicals is supporting the sales growth of its new fungicide by investing a further £17 million at its manufacturing plant in Grangemouth in Scotland.

The investment will create about 50 jobs in a new formulation and packaging facility for Zeneca's Amistar fungicide. The company has previously spent £22 million on a plant in Grangemouth to make the active ingredient in Amistar.

Since Amistar was first licensed in Germany in April last year, it has gained registrations on 12 crops in 14 countries. Zeneca said that these included cereals

and vines in Europe, bananas in Central America and turfgrass in the US. The company expects sales to accelerate as additional registrations are received.

Amistar is effective against a wide range of fungal diseases that have become resistant to existing fungicides. Zeneca also said its new £11 million plant at Cold Creek, Alabama, has begun producing a key constituent for Amistar.

Peter Doyle, the Zeneca director in charge of research and development, has joined the board of Oxford Molecular, the drug design software company.

Cirqual spending £14m

CIRQUAL, the specialist engineering group, is spending £14.7 million on buying RFI, an electronic components supplier, and Thomas Wild Forgings, a private metal-forging and casting business (Chris Ayres writes).

The biggest outlay is for RFI, which is being bought for £9 million from Siebe, the

international controls manufacturer. Both purchases are being funded by increased bank borrowings.

Cirqual's interim results for the six months to February 28 showed pre-tax profits doubling from £1.34 million to £2.78 million. Turnover was also up, from £9.19 million to £13.47 million.

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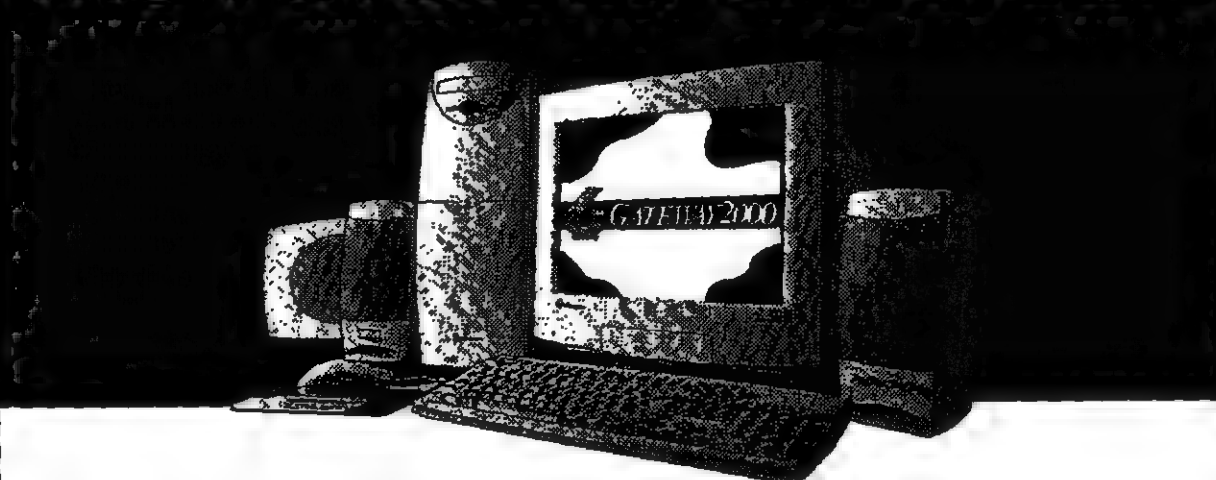
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THE SUNDAY TIMES ELECTION 97 READER FORUM

MEET TONY BLAIR



Friday is your chance to ask Tony Blair about his party's plans for government should Labour win the election.

This is a unique opportunity for readers of The Times and The Sunday Times to have a say in the campaign with the man who aims to be prime minister

Tony Blair will speak for about 20 minutes before answering questions from the audience. The event, to be held in central London on Friday, April 25, will take place between 8pm and 9.30pm. Tickets, which must be booked in advance, are £10 each (£7.50 for students, pensioners and unemployed). Telephone First Call on 0171-420 0000. Lines are open 24 hours.



■ VISUAL ART

A masterpiece in miniature: the National Gallery focuses on Dürer's superb painting of Saint Jerome



■ LITERATURE

Writer and role model Walter Moseley finds that fame brings its responsibilities

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ POP

Motown gal out of London town: Gabrielle turns on the smoochy sensual stuff for Dublin



■ TOMORROW

Will the Royal Opera House go populist when it reopens after the redevelopment?

VISUAL ART: The National Gallery is giving one small panel a special show. Richard Cork describes *Saint Jerome*

Passion and power of Dürer's saint



Dürer's *Saint Jerome*: the young artist shows profound sympathy with the torment of an old man

Striking his chest with a stone, Saint Jerome atones for past sins in a landscape as wild as his own emotions. The penitent's only companions are a lion, resting after the removal of a thorn from his paw, and two birds poised by a stream. But Jerome pays no attention to them. Absorbed in the ferocity of remorse, he kneels before a crucifix and punishes himself without flinching.

Although Albrecht Dürer was in his mid-twenties when he painted this small panel, it is fired by a profound sympathy with the torment of an old man. None of the scholarship and ecclesiastical renown Jerome accumulated during his long career avails him now. Driven by abject self-abasement into a hermit-like existence, he has flung his cardinal's robe and hat on the ground. The scarlet garment lies crumpled in a tangle of grass and plants, its fur-lined collar still curved into the shape of his neck.

No longer feeling that he deserves to be arrayed with such magnificence, Jerome bares his bald head, withered arms and bruised torso to the mountain air. He wants, like King Lear, to cast off worldly lustre and expose himself to "what wretches feel". Even the Bible, which secured his high reputation, when he translated it into Latin, is used here merely as a prop to help him to retain his balance. Its pages offer no consolation as he strains upwards, searching for absolution in the heavens.

Since Dürer's painting is so diminutive, he could have been excused for concentrating on Jerome alone. But the fascination of this remarkably intense image, now the subject of a special exhibition at the National Gallery, arises from its all-encompassing scope. Far from focusing on one man's plight, Dürer defies his panel's physical limits and offers a vision of the macrocosm surrounding Jerome in all its immensity.

The young artist's ability to perform such a feat had been sharpened by a trip to Venice in 1494-95. His Alpine watercolours testify to a deepening involvement

with close observation of nature. The knowledge gained during these studies helps to give the countryside in the National Gallery's painting its first-hand freshness, and the panel's extraordinary luminosity shows how much he must have learnt from his encounters with Venetian art. Bellini's *Saint Jerome Reading in a Landscape*, executed about a decade before Dürer's painting, is suffused with an alert, sensuous awareness of the sun's transforming impact on a craggy locale. The radiance achieved by Dürer surely owes a great debt to his Italian contemporaries, and the National Gallery's panel was for many years ascribed to the Veronese artist Francesco Caroto.

The longer we look at this hallucinatory picture, however, the more it seems the unmistakable product of a northern European imagination. Dürer has no interest in echoing the serenity of Bellini's hermit, who sits on a rock and examines his biblical text with complete calm. In Dürer's troubled version the lion is given a substantial role, reclining next to Jerome and staring with a penitential power that might easily erupt in sudden action. The bullfinch and goldfinch by the water, clearly identifiable despite their microscopic size, are within perilous range of his paw.

Dürer defines their plumage, and the pebbles on the bank of the stream, with a naturalist's precision. Of all German Renaissance artists, he was the one who best exemplified his era's awakening insistence on an empirical scrutiny of nature. Watercolours included in the exhibition prove how intently he explored the minutiae of rock formations in a quarry near his Nuremberg home, or the interplay between water, pines and sky in an especially limpid scene. Even though some spontaneity was lost, Dürer's rapt response still animates the deliberation he needed in order to paint his panel.

It seems to be freighted with a dense accumulation of knowledge about the landscapes he had studied. But there is nothing pedantic about his determination to pack sections of the picture with an abundance of plant-life and heavily foliated trees.

Above all else, he ensures that the landscape contributes to the emotional turbulence experienced by the saint himself. Looking at this image, we gradually realise how many of its diverse elements end up conveying the pressure inside the penitent's head. The rock face surging above the lion is vertiginous enough to induce dizziness in the most seasoned climber. First threaten to tumble from its heights, and this unsteadiness affects Jerome's body as well. His left knee juts out awkwardly as it struggles to remain secure. Jagged folds of drapery gather around thigh and calf alike, accentuating his bodily strain. He seems almost as liable to fall as the crucifix in front of him, perched so insecurely in the stripped and rotting fibre of a dead tree-trunk.

Even the Gothic church spire in the forest behind seems about to be engulfed by oppressive vegetation, pressing against it from every side. No wonder the old man looks apprehensive as he searches for a sign in the firmament. Unlike Bellini's Jerome, Dürer's saint sports a beard riddled with convoluted waves. They seem to be the outward manifestation of his own nervous energy, and the tension finds no release in the sky blazing above a snowy mountain range on the horizon. Strips of brilliant yellow cast a barbarous glow on the land glimpsed beyond the saint's outstretched right arm, making the earth appear to be streaked with blood.

Still more disturbing are the clouds agitating the space Dürer gives them. In an engraving of the subject he produced around the same time, trees and monstrous

weeds continue to sprout at the top of the picture. In the painting, by contrast, an unusually generous amount of the composition is given over to sky alone. And the clouds invading it are agitated. Dark patches swirl and writhe in front of their paler counterparts, giving them all a gathering instability.

The suspicion that they might be reacting to some greater cosmic turbulence is confirmed by the mysterious image painted on the reverse of the panel. Executed with a slashing freedom reminiscent of the apocalyptic paintings made by Ludwig Meidner just before the First World War, it exchanges the clarity of the other side for tantalising elusiveness. But it appears to centre on a yellow fireball, giving off scarlet rays while shooting across a dark sky. Since Dürer's parents knew the astronomer Bernhard Walther, who helped to conduct pioneering investigations into comets, he may have based this painting on scientific research. In 1492 a meteor fell in Germany, and Dürer was himself able to scan the heavens after buying Walther's house with its built-in observatory.

At the same, his willingness to flick particles of paint into this spattered image removes it from the realms of scientific illustration. It looks more like a nightmare experienced by the artist, a portent of the apocalypse he went on to depict in his celebrated series of woodcuts inspired by the Revelations of Saint John. There, burning stars rain on a defenceless population. Here, in the painted panel, the explosion on one side is not allowed to invade the landscape on the other. But the threat of obliteration is palpable enough, and Jerome is supposed to have heard the trumpets sounding the Last Judgment as he assailed his own flesh. Hence the overriding mood of suspense in a complex work where, even as Dürer rejoices in the richness of the natural world, he emphasises its alarming fragility.

● The exhibition is at the National Gallery (0171-747 2885) until June 8

BETWEEN Ireland and London, in the never-never-land beyond passport control in the apparently endless tubular corridors at Heathrow's smart new Pier 4a, are a series of deliberate, well-judged artistic interventions. Complaints about the length of the walkways prompted the BAA, advised by the Public Art Development Trust, to give three Irish artists a rare opportunity to try out repetition on a non-stop, not necessarily willing audience. In a strange, unnerving take, where what seems to be a reflection in a mirror turns out to be a precise and exact copy running down the other side, Andrew Kearney's elaborately rounded counters protrude from the wall like closed sea anemones. Each carries a numerical count which appears to change, move or shift at

AROUND THE GALLERIES

the passing of each passenger. In the middle of the journey, Philip Napier has shunted up a mass of black and white printed place names from the front of Irish buses till they appear from far away to be a sea of pointillist painting. From close up a mass of familiar as well as unknown names are accompanied by the melodious sound of names read out in Gaelic. In the last section, *Points of View* by Frances Hegarty, a number of photographic portraits of past passengers have been adjusted, extended, distorted in the computer until they work with the movement along the conveyor or walkway.

Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1, Pier 4a (0181-745 7224) until December.

□ THREE photographs and two paintings from the Eighties by Julian Schnabel, the last big "romantic" painter, are on show at Timothy Taylor Gallery. *Bucephalus* (1988), a large painting upon a dirty tarpaulin, has chunky lettering spelling nothing much painted across it, yet despite the fact that such grand paintings are out of fashion, it still looks good. Timothy Taylor Gallery, 1 Bruton Place, London W1 (0171-409 3344), until May 24.

□ AT Laurent Delaye there is a mixed show, curated by Margaret Murray, of image-packed new American painting. Cheryl Donegan shows a few dull unstretched

canvases, while three video monitors show the artist in various stages of making a painting. Christian Schumann's *Eterna* shows pill bottles and teardrops in a colourful caricature cartoon vision. "Naughty" Nicola Escamman has set up a display like a window stall at a seaside junk shop, interwoven with her slightly adolescent doodles and cheeky drawings. Across the surface of Steve DiBenedetto's *Cathedral* a network of detail spins together a highly coloured web of receding perspective. Alexis Rockman shows a world above and below the water line: the atmosphere is sultry, sinister and tropical. Lauren Delaye Gallery, 22 Barrett Street, London W1 (0171-639 5905), until May 24.

SACHA CRADDOCK

Much too late the heroine

With a brace of hit singles, a platinum-selling album and numerous awards to her credit (including a Brit for Best Female Artist), Gabrielle is one of the most successful of the British singers operating on the soul/pop interface.

Strangely, Gabrielle did not make her entrance until after the nine-piece band had warmed up with a largely instrumental funk work-out, thus eschewing the first rule of showbiz: always make a strong first impression. When she did appear, elegantly clad in a long black dress and matching jacket and shades, it was full speed ahead into a set that comprised much of her second, eponymous album.

I Live in Hope and Baby, I've Changed reveal Gabrielle's knack for combining the emotive phrasing of seminal Motown soul with the musical accoutrements of the contemporary pop ballad. The effect is that the songs walk a precarious tightrope between the profound and the bland. Gabrielle's deep, smoky voice is just the right mix of knowing world-weariness and smoochy sensuality but it is at its most poignant during *Alone*, when Gabrielle's mournful tones are accompanied by a sole acoustic guitar.



Gabrielle: successfully mining the rich soul/pop seam

POP CONCERT

Gabrielle
Olympia, Dublin

There was only widespread dancing in the seats during the encore, when Gabrielle sang her three most popular hits, the Bacharach/David classic *Walk on By*, *Give Me a Little More Time* and *Dreams*.

To return to showbiz tactics for a moment, Gabrielle would have been better advised to play one of these trump cards earlier in the show instead of lumping them together at the end, when the game was all but lost.

NICK KELLY

Private eye firmly in the public ear

These days, Walter Moseley is less a writer of detective stories than an American icon. Hettie Judah reports

A day later, Moseley eases back on a sofa and lodges a can of Coke in the crook of his knee. I ask him whether Macmillan's blockbuster *Waiting to Exhale*, really made such a difference to black authors. "She broke a barrier for black writers," he says. "A black audience bought the book en masse; it identified with the book and would buy more books. She opened up a market that was already there."

Unlike Macmillan's comfortable middle-class world,

Gone Fishin' lingers long on the visceral. It is soaked in woodoo, fish guts, patricide, bleated toads and a grotesque scene with sausage fat. Moseley freely admits that he never holds back on physical description. "For poor blacks living in the deep South, violence is a way of life. You don't have much, but the little bit you have, you have to protect."

Moseley's written language is exquisitely observed; a rich, accented dialect. "Simple language is dangerous language," he says. "Language that tells the truth, that you can understand, is dangerous; language that is flowery and obfuscated and removed into some kind of scholarship is not taking any risks."

For all his determined realism, this is not Moseley's own language, and the experiences he details are those of a generation before him. "I lived in a neighbourhood in Los Angeles where most of the people had come from the deep South. When I was a child the stories I heard were from the deep South; obviously those are the stories that I would first start writing."

Eventually Moseley brought the characters of the unpublished *Gone Fishin'* for-

ward to 1948, following the black migration from the South to the jazz-soaked, crime-ridden streets of Los Angeles. The result was *Devil in a Blue Dress*, recently made into a film as excellent as the book. It, and its successors, were published as detective fiction, but the problem-solving genre is used almost as an excuse to tackle problem issues: McCarthyism, rape within marriage, child prostitution... He has also founded Black Genius, a panel of 14 speakers including himself and the film director Spike Lee, which discusses everyday problems with local audiences — first in New York, but soon across the country.

His status in America is now such that a walk-on part in his favourite television sitcom has been discussed. His growing potency as a black icon is apparent. Does he not feel crushed by responsibility? "I remember my father — who was no Republican — saying: 'There's one thing I liked about Eisenhower: he went to work at nine, he worked until five, and after that he went home. If you are the President, that's a hard job. You can't get exhausted, you can't get overly tired,



Walter Moseley, begetter of cult hero Easy Rawlins

because you might push the wrong button." I think that's how I feel; I'm one kind of role model, I'm the one who is reasonable, who doesn't take on too much.

But hold on to a minute: Moseley's modern Socratic dialogues *Always Outnumbered*, *Always Outgunned* are published in October. Last week he finished a science-fiction novel, and the next Easy Rawlins mystery, *Bad Boy Bobby Brown*, is on its way. Then there's movies, plays, his Black Genius road show... does the man America listens to listen to himself?

● *Gone Fishin'* is published by Serpent's Tail

The Royal Opera

Richard Strauss

13 17 19 22 24

27 May at 7.30pm

31 May at 7pm

CHOICE 1

Check by Jowl
stages Tennessee
Williams's
rare *Out Cry*

VENUE: Now in preview
at the Lyric, Hammersmith

CHOICE 2

Curtain up on
*The Admirable
Crichton*, staged by
Michael Rudman

VENUE: Chichester
Festival, from tonight

THE TIMES
ARTS

CHOICE 3

Tommy Cooper's
spirit is evoked
in the play *Frankie
and Tommy*

VENUE: Opens tonight
Warford Palace

FILM

The master
restored: Alfred
Hitchcock's
Vertigo comes
up fresh in a
new print

LONDON

LEISURE D'AMORE Tickets are
scarce for John Cooper's production for
the Royal Opera of Donizetti's enduring
comedy *Jose Bros and Bona Pola*
may have the role of Adina, with
Dorothy York as Gaetano and Maudie
de la Cruz as Bona. Sing in Italian
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm
Then April 25 (19.30), 26 May 2, 8 and
9.7.30pm (19.30).

OUT CRY Jason Merrells and Sara
Stewart play actor and actress in
Tennessee Williams's early, originally
known as *The Two Character Play*. Two
trapezians, abandoned by their
colleagues, decide the show must go
on. Tommy Waterhouse directs for Cheek by
Jowl. Lyric, Hammersmith, W6
(0181-741 2311). Preview tonight,
7.30pm. Opens tomorrow 7pm. Mon
to Wed 7.30pm to Sat 7.30pm, mat Sat
2.30pm. Until May 17.

PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY The
cast of 12 dancers celebrate their 15th
anniversary with the performance of
three pieces: *White Powder* (with
choreography by Dargan Singh
Bruders), *Exploring the Superstition* of
American domestic bliss. Based on
the sculpture as the inspiration for Pamela
L. Johnson's *Evil's Reflection*,
performed in two soprano saxophone.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian Macey

The London premiere of *Covering
Ground* by Shapero & Smith — an
exploration of the camaraderie and
physicality of the Phoenix Dancers —
concludes the programme.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank,
SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight-Sat,
7.45pm (10).

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER This summer season
begins with the tropical island setting of
J.M. Barrie's *The Admirable
Crichton*, where Ian McKnash's perfect
butler and Michael Denison's noble earl
find the means of survival after social
precedence. Michael Rudman directs.
Festival, Chichester Park (01243
781312). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then
Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm. In rep.

WATFORD Christopher Brand plays
Tommy Cooper in *Frankie and Tommy*
by Gary Lyons, with Ben Fox as
Frankie. The author's father. Based on
the true account of Cooper's 8-14-68
comedy double-act in Egypt 1946.
Directed by Peter Rowe and first seen

at the Liverpool Everyman.
Theatre, Chichester Road (01243
226711). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then
Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm. Fri and Sat, 8pm.
mat Sat 2.30pm. Sat 10.30pm, mat Sat
(April 26, May 10, 30). Until May 10
7.45pm (10).

LONDON GALLERIES

Art Concourse: Art in Two and
Three Dimensions: Painting — Harrison
Thornhill. Sculpture — Wendy Dale
(0171-382 6744).

International Centre of Photography:
AOP/Kodak Student Awards (0171-608
1445).

British Museum: Ancient
Egypt (0171-636 1555).

Contemporary: Michele David and
Christopher Wood (0171-581 5451).

Commercial: Client Page (0171-947
0747).

Galleria 27: *Exhibition*,
Recent Jazz Paintings by John Bull
(0171-437 2012).

Medieval
London's Monks (0171-747 2889).

Porter: Reg Peeper Paintings of
French Rural Life (0171-493 0708).

Royal Over-Seas League: Stuart
Robertson (0171-408 0214).

The
Hogarth Painter (0171-887 8000).

LONG RUNNERS

1 Blood Brothers: Phoenix (0171-388
1733).

2 Buddy: Royal (0171-320
8900).

3 Caste: New London (0171-
405 0072).

4 Grease: Cambridge
Drury Lane (0171-494 5402).

5 The
Hogarth Painter: St Martin's (0171-436
1443).

6 Oliver: Palladium (0171-
344 5020).

7 The
Phoenix of the
Opera: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5402).

8 Starlight Express: Apollo Vic
(0171-416 6054).

9 The
Woman in
Black: Fortune (0171-855 2338).

Ticket information supplied by Society
of London Theatres

THEATRE GUIDE

Jerome Kingdon's assessment
of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Score: 1-5 (1=poor, 5=excellent)

Seats at all prices

plays David O. Salzman. Written by
Peter Morn and Philip George, and
directed by George
Kilgus. 115 Upper Street, N1
(0171-255 1618). New previewing, 8pm
Opens April 24, 7.30pm

THE GOODBYE GIRL Gary Wilmot
and Ann Crumb in the Hammer/Capitol
musical version of Neil Simon's play
Albany. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-
369 1139). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.30pm;
mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, Sun.

THE HERALD BED Peter Whittaker's
laconic play transfers from the
Barbican to some cast changes but
Teresa Branson continues to play
her character's daughter, and Stephen
Boone her Puritan inquisitor.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2
(0171-828 2332). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm;
mat Thurs and Sat 2pm. In rep.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING
ERNEST** Michael Macdonald's
celebrated tribute to Wilde, conveying
the wit, the gravity, the desire

to be the great, the witty, the
witty, the gravity, the desire

to be the great, the witty, the
witty, the gravity, the desire

to be the great, the witty, the
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Hitch from a hodgepodge

The re-release of
Vertigo is a
triumph of the
film restorer's
art. W. Stephen
Gilbert reports

It is a measure of the
genius of Alfred Hitch-
cock that so many of his
movies are hailed as his
masterpieces. *The 39 Steps*, *The
Lady Vanishes*, *Rebecca*,
Strangers on a Train, *Rear
Window*, *North by Northwest*,
Psycho and *The Birds* are
widely touted: a dozen more
can lay claim to the palm.

But for anyone who relishes
the tradition of rapture and
delirium in Hollywood film-
making, his *piece de resis-
tance* is that haunting, dream-
like melodrama of 1958,
Vertigo. The film's swiftness
and status as a quondam "lost movie"
are entirely at one with its fiercely
debated merits.

The movie is set in the
properly veriginous city of
San Francisco. Scottie Fergu-
son is retired from the police
when afflicted by vertigo after
seeing a colleague fall to his
death. An old acquaintance
enlists Ferguson's help to tail
his wife, who seems to be
possessed by an Hispanic
ancestor. The pursuit becomes
obsessive, all the more so
because Ferguson has stopped
Madeleine drowning herself. But
his vertigo prevents him from
saving her when she leaps
from a Spanish mission tower.

Driven deeper into illness,
Ferguson meets an office clerk
who is strikingly like his dead
love. He invites himself into
Judy's regard and gradually
persuades her to make herself
over into a simulacrum of
Madeleine. Unwittingly, she
betrays the set-up into which
Ferguson has blundered and,
in recreating the staged sui-
cide, he precipitates the exor-
cism of the ghost.

Films exploring identity
and duality existed be-
fore, but those prolifer-
ating since *Vertigo*, none
more explicitly than the Brian
De Palma obsessions, *Obses-
sion*, and Mel Brooks's *Hitch
cock*, *High Anxiety*.

But the film's most perva-
sive single influence has been
a camera trick, the simulta-
neous forward zoom and re-
verse track. Hitchcock devised
with cinematographer Robert
Burks to convey the disorien-
tating effect of vertigo. This
device, now the standard
method of signalling panic or
fear, has recurred in seem-
ingly every other Hollywood
movie from *Jaws* to *Get
Shorty*; it even turned up in
Dennis Potter's *Kareoke*.

Vertigo itself. For some
years, a group of Hitchcock
movies for Paramount
dropped out of circulation.
Londoners did get a chance to
see them by hearing on the
grapevine that the cavernous
old Scala cinema at King's
Cross was having an occasion-
al illicit screening. The tale
was that Hitchcock himself
had wilfully decreed that the
prints be suppressed.

The truth is necessarily
shabbier. They were junked by
Paramount. "We were looking
for the three-stripe magnetic
track for *Vertigo*," says James
Katz, "and we dug out this
memo dated April 1967 con-
firming the destruction of the
track. At once we knew that
the same had happened to
Rear Window, *The Man Who
Knew Too Much* and *The
Trouble with Harry*."

"We also found that this was
not a decision made by Hitch-
cock," adds Robert Harris. "It
was made by a lawyer with no
film background who didn't
know what he was suggesting
when he said 'junk it'."

Harris and Katz, whose
restorations include *Sparta-*



James Katz (left) and Robert Harris, who have reconstructed the *Vertigo* Alfred Hitchcock film, but never saw

cus. *My Fair Lady* and *Law-
rence of Arabia*, then spent 36
months bringing the *Vertigo*
negative to its full glory.

"It really wasn't until the
Japanese began buying into
the American studios and
asking what was in the library
that everybody started to get
diligent," Katz says.

"Studies that ac-
quired libraries — as
Universal did Paramount's — were
at least aware of the value."

Restoring sound is just
one of the tasks. The track of
Bernard Herrmann's evocative
music turned up in a
Paramount vault.

"Interestingly
enough, that was re-
corded in London,"
says Katz, "because
of the musicians' strike in 1958.
After one day the London
musicians sympathised with
the American unions and they
had to finish the recording in
Vienna. The London material
was in stereo, the Viennese
mono, but the score is now
remastered as full stereo."

Meanwhile, the aspect ratio
has undergone dramatic
change. The current *Vertigo*

prints are in the convenient
dimension known as Acad-
emy, which sits snugly in the
television frame. But *Vertigo*
was shot in Paramount's
short-lived process called
VistaVision, which used stan-
dard 35mm film to achieve a
wide-screen effect. It was
introduced on *White
Christmas*, but the
exhibitors balked at the
requirement to install new
projectors, and the hand-
ful of movies shot in
VistaVision were generally
seen reduction-printed to
Academy, but with no loss
of frame. The one benefit to
audiences was a sharper
picture.

For *Vertigo*, Katz
and Harris have created a
format they call SuperVistaVision 70.
"Rather than reduction-printing
it," says Harris, "we
done a field enlargement of
probably less than 10 per cent
to fill the 70mm frame verti-
cally, and then matted the sides
to a standard wide-screen
dimension." Hitchcock, Katz
observes, never saw the film in
this way.

Half a reel of work-in-

progress was shown at the San
Francisco Film Festival a year
ago, and the first screening of
the full fruit of Harris and
Katz's long labour was at the
Ziegfeld Theatre in New York
last October. "It's easier and
quicker to make a new movie
than to restore an old one,"
Katz says with feeling.

A criticism of the movie origi-
nally attracted concern over its
bleak end. Harris and Katz
have turned up a discarded
pay-off sequence marking the
apprehension of the villain.
"We added that to the laser-
disc version, out of deference
to Hitchcock," Katz says. "His
family gave us permission
because we all felt that the
laser-disc is the definitive
record of the movie. But it's
separate from the film. It was
made for censorship reasons,
and we've made that clear."

He underlines the integrity
of the work. "The word 'restora-
tion' is handed about as a
marketing term when people
are just making prints off old
negatives." "What we do,"
Harris interjects, "is create a
new 65mm negative that's all
cut together from different
things. When it's projected on
the screen you won't be able to
tell. That's the trick."

● *Vertigo* is re-released on Friday

NEW RELEASES

THE ADDICTION (18). Quasi- and
compelling vampire tale from Abel
Ferrara, with Lil Taylor
(0171-430 3647). Abel
(0171-430 3647). Ritz (0171-231 2121).

BOX OF MOONLIGHT (15). Upstart
engineer unravels. Winsome tale from
Tom De Haven, with John Turturro
and Tatum O'Neal. Ritz (0171-
430 3647). Ritz (0171-231 2121).

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE (18).
Theatrical production of Brecht's last
important work. Juliet Stevenson plays
Gretchen, with Michaelson as the
prosecutor. National (0171-351 5511).
South Bank, SE1 (0171-351 5511).
mat Thurs and Sat 2pm. In rep.

CHOCOLATE AND CHOCOLATE. An
after a pregnancy, Bach and a boy
lead in this stage version of the
play. National (0171-351 5511).
South Bank, SE1 (0171-351 5511).
mat Thurs and Sat 2pm. In rep.

THE GOODBYE GIRL (18). A
musical version of Neil Simon's play
Albany. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-
369 1139). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.30pm;
mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, Sun.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING
ERNEST** (18). Michael Macdonald's
celebrated tribute to Wilde, conveying
the wit, the gravity, the desire

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CINEMA GUIDE</

The Big Sheep provides a tale of innovation

IF YOU cannot avoid having an inconvenience thrust upon you, try to turn it to your advantage. So the Turner family decided when a main road was built through land near the town of Bideford, Devon, that their ancestors had owned for 350 years.

By the time the road opened in 1987 — with a junction only yards from the 400-acre farm at Abbotsham — Michael and Julie Turner, who were sheep and arable farmers, had decided to use their new accessibility to create a tourist industry, focused on sheep. Mr Turner then decided to start a milking flock and dairy that would be central to the enterprise.

After several years' extensive research, and obtaining planning permission, they started the Big Sheep in 1988 along with their son, Ric, who had just left college with a degree in agriculture.

That year 20,000 visitors arrived and the new venture won the English Tourist Board's award, England for Excellence. It also achieved a distinction in the British Tourist Authority's "Come to Britain" category.

Although the Big Sheep is open all year, the busiest time begins at Easter. Generally there are 600 sheep (many more at lambing time), of which 200 are milked — a visitor attraction in itself.

The farm products, made from pasteurised ewes' milk, are popular, particularly with people allergic to other types of dairy produce. Milk is supplied to delicatessens and

Sally Watts finds a number of businesses diversifying through their links with the tourist industry

health food shops in the South West, including Cheltenham and Swindon, while hard and soft cheese is dispatched all over the country through mail order.

At first this was made by the Turners. Mr Turner is chairman of the British Sheep Dairying Association and he and his wife learnt the craft by attending a course in Scotland. The farm has won a certificate for quality produce at the International Cheese Festival.

Other sheep milk products have been added: ice cream (made on site and sold at, among other places, Bideford's theatre), fudge and some ten flavours of yoghurt. These are contracted out, using the farm's milk.

The Big Sheep is currently attracting 100,000 visitors annually; perhaps more this season because the 1997 *Good Guide to Britain* has named it Devon's family attraction of the year. The secret, says Mr Turner, is to have live shows and demonstrations, not videos.

"Something is happening

here every half an hour. We cater for everyone from a three-year-old to a granny."

Local people are trained to demonstrate spinning and weaving in the farm shop, which sells rugs and knitwear, and takes orders for pullovers handknitted from Big Sheep wool. This year a second, covered adventure playground will open — the first is open-air — and catering has been extended. Originally this was managed by Mrs Turner, who provided home cooking.

There are daily sheep dog trials and even sheep racing: at 3.20 every afternoon six animals compete along a 200 yard course from paddock to milking parlour.

In an area of high unemployment, the Big Sheep employs more than 20 people in the winter, about half of them full time, and twice this number in the summer.

Ric Turner, who is 31, is applying for funding from the European Union in order to increase the number of jobs — and shows. The venture, he says, has borrowed "several hundred thousand pounds" from Midland Bank, and turnover is well above £500,000.

The Big Sheep has become a leading open farm. Ric Turner says: "We spent three years trying to stop the road being built, but now it brings a lot of visitors — school groups, parties of adults. People come for a day out, a good time. It's light-hearted fun — a theatre on the farm."

The Big Sheep: 01274 472366



Best, has none: Ric Turner has seen the Big Sheep named Devon's family attraction of the year

Small firms form backbone of what will be world's largest industry

TOURISM and small businesses are vital to each other. By the year 2000, according to the Scottish Tourist Board, tourism will be the largest industry worldwide, led mainly by small firms. In England, more than 90 per cent of tourist-related businesses have fewer than ten staff, while Welsh tourism employs 9 per cent of the working population.

Small independent enterprises form the industry's backbone, offering B&B, self-catering and small hotels, while 134 farms, accredited by the Welsh Tourist Board, have formed local self-marketing consortiums. Among outdoor pursuits are riding, pony trekking and mountain biking. In Scotland, sole operators offer hill climbing or walking packages with guiding.

Standards matter. Training schemes, often subsidised, range from courses for managers and employees who deal with the public, disabled people and foreign visitors, through basic instruction in languages such as Japanese.

Scotland runs Tourism Business Success: eight optional modules, such as marketing and finance, that count towards a National Vocational Qualification.

"Tourism is a good line for small businesses, provided they have high standards, give good service, join the local tourist board and take training courses," says Mark Dowling, development director for South East England region.

Many ventures have added attractions: vineyards may include a shop and/or restaurant; there is one that even has a herd of llamas. Risebridge Farm Holiday Cottages, a self-catering family business with ten cottages on a former hop farm at Goudhurst, provides indoor swimming, squash, badminton and a gym.

For self-employed people there is guiding — but it is best to have a Blue Badge. This requires an expensive two years of training, stringent exams plus an entrance

examination to weed out the doubtful.

Phillip Gelling, a London Blue Badge guide for 12 years, says that a second language — especially a less well-known one — is an asset.

Guiding is well paid, with the added bonus of having the freedom to decide when you work. London has some 900 guides; others operate in Scotland, Wales and the regions.

Other possibilities include a theme restaurant, such as Capital Radio and Football Football, or a special-interest museum.

Bramah Tea and Coffee Museum attracts international visitors "who see Britain as synonymous with tea", says Edward Bramah. He opened it in 1992 in a 10,000 sq ft old warehouse near Tower Bridge.

This year Mr Bramah expects 30,000 visitors — some arriving by the Pool of London ferry to Butler's Wharf — to see his 350-year social and commercial history of tea and coffee, which includes videos and refreshments.

In addition to the collection, there is the cost of premises, display cabinets and marketing, says Mr Bramah, who once worked on a tea plantation.

It is worth seeking sources of start-up funding. For example, Wales offers capital grant aid to encourage start-ups (with a promising business plan) that will provide jobs or expand or create a market.

Tourist boards: England 0181-846 9000; Scotland 0131-332 2433; Wales 01222 499909.



"And still ten days to go!"

Farmers have grown to appreciate visitors

A FARM holiday has moved far beyond providing pin money for the farmer's wife: today it means business for both farm and family.

"Tourism and farming are very important to us," says Pamela Broadhurst, who offers self-catering and B&B at the traditional hill-farm run by her husband, Nicholas, in Derbyshire's Peak District.

Mrs Broadhurst started 13

years ago with a self-catering cottage. This proved so popular that she and her husband converted a barn, then opened the house's Tudor wing, also for self-catering. More recently, they provided two bedrooms and a family room for B&B guests.

The English Tourist Board's inspection and grading system rates the premises "highly commended", which means

lined curtains, fitted carpets, two bedside lights and mod-cons. "Service and standards are vital," says Mrs Broadhurst. "People expect the same as at home, if not better."

Mrs Broadhurst is a director of East Midlands representative of the Farm Holiday Bureau (FHB), which began in 1983 with government funding and is now a co-operative for more than 1,000 UK farms.

Those in areas of need may obtain grants for footpaths, fences, computers and so on. The bureau publishes an annual guide, *Stay on a Farm*.

In Devon, farm holiday turnover exceeded £1.5 million in 1995, part of a farm visitor spend of £2.75 million. Last autumn, Devon Farms Growth Initiative (DFGI) secured £60,000 over three years — from the EU and the Ministry

of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — to improve their IT system, enhance and market their brochure and help each farm to buy a fax. Now the DFGI and FHB are expanding into Europe via the Internet.

"We've run some training to increase our professionalism and generate more business," explains Bridget Cole, herself a farmer's wife offering hospitality at her home near Yelverton.

The scheme — backed by the Rural Development Commission, Dartmoor National Park and local authorities — has a visitor helpline run by Jill Baskwill, another farm caterer near Kingsbridge, to put potential clients in touch with vacancies at 120 member farms.

Devon Farms helpline: 01548 550312. Family Holiday Bureau: 01203 696909.

Boatman aims to stay afloat

AT 48, after a career in TV and film production, Peter Woodley was unable to get a job, so he turned his hobby into Adelaide Marine Limited, a small boat hire firm in Norwood Green, Middlesex.

Mr Woodley started in 1994, investing £120,000, which included a bank loan with his house as security. When the first season ended he was £120,000 in the red. The house is now being sold, which will put the business back in the black. Mr Woodley, his wife and their cat occupy a flat at the boat yard at Adelaide Dock on Grand Union Canal.

Meanwhile, his turnover — £160,000 last year — is moving in the right direction, helped by repairs and refitting, which form the larger part of the business. He has ten boats, including two narrow and five wide beam, bookable through

Anglo Welsh hire company, of Bristol, as well as two craft for Scouts and school parties and a four-berth narrowboat.

Mr Woodley, who has four employees and casual help, finds costs are the biggest worry. He says that rent — for water, land and buildings — and rates are high in terms of likely income. In addition, licensing fees have risen. Survival depends on expansion, so this year he hopes to borrow £250,000 from Business Angels to start a hotel boat service between Greenwich and Windsor. "You don't make much money hiring boats," he says, "but it is the most wonderful life."

Drifting along the waterways on an all-mod-cons narrowboat will draw 250,000 holidaymakers in 1997. Drifters, a consortium of independent holiday boat operators, markets the attractions of a

short break, a week or longer, on 2,000 miles of British Waterways. One of its members, Rose Narrowboats, near Rugby, has been hiring boats for more than 20 years. It has 23 craft — five for weekend and midweek breaks — and a day boat. The company builds its own vessels, has 11 full-time employees and part-timers and is owned and run by two families.

Bryan Ambrose, a director, emphasises the need for sound financial advice, especially as earnings are seasonal. "This is a very capital-intensive business — boats are expensive to maintain," he says. Marketing is another important item. The biggest worry is to be ready, with all the boats painted, at the start of the season. The best part is his customers' satisfaction after a relaxing holiday.

Drifters: 0345 626252.

Rural Welsh towns receive MTI regeneration grants

By JOLA SMITH

FIVE towns in rural Wales will receive regeneration grant aid under the £800,000 European Union-funded Market Towns Initiative (MTI). Abercraze, Cardigan, Dolgellau, Llanfair Caernarfon and Rhyader will each receive up to £90,000 to establish job creation projects in sectors as diverse as craft industries, tourism and sport.

Residents of Cardigan, for example, believe that the town's maritime heritage is the key to its future prosperity. So they are seeking to acquire a 19th century tall ship that can be converted into a floating museum.

Abercraze's citizens, on the other hand, place their focus on developing craft work-



Rowe-Beddoe: venture

shops and sales outlets, while Rhyader is keen to establish an indoor tennis centre and sports hall.

Rhyader's townspeople also want to make contact with

former residents because they believe that some who moved away to more lucrative pastures can be encouraged to return to invest and work in the town.

The Market Town Initiative was first mooted in the Government's rural White Paper A working countryside for Wales. The venture was launched by David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the Development Board for Rural Wales, who recognises both "the need to invest in communities" and "the importance for rural Wales of sustaining a strong market town network".

There were 25 towns competing for this first round of grant aid, and the five winners will all employ a development officer to bring their projects to fruition.

Crime costs rise to £2bn a year

THIEVES and vandals are costing small businesses more than £2 billion a year, a study by Norwich Union, the insurance group, shows. The claim is supported by a separate survey of small crime in Leicester that put the national small business bill for all kinds of crime at £3.2 billion.

The NU report found half of all small businesses had been broken into by burglars at an average cost of £1,273 a

break-in. The Leicester report by Crime Concern, the crime prevention charity, found that 75 per cent of companies were victims of crime last year. Incidents included burglary, thefts by customers, criminal damage, losses in transit, fraud and violence.

Businesses suffered an average 3.5 incidents a year, with burglary and fraud the most common crimes. Many businesses fail to take adequate

precautions. For example, Norwich Union found that only one small business in five took extra security measures over Easter, though many claimed to be worried about leaving premises unattended.

Tony Holden, a consultant at Crime Concern, said few businesses took measures other than installing a burglar alarm. His report showed that a minority of businesses were repeated targets for crime.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams, Stephen Rodney or Rebecca Errington on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



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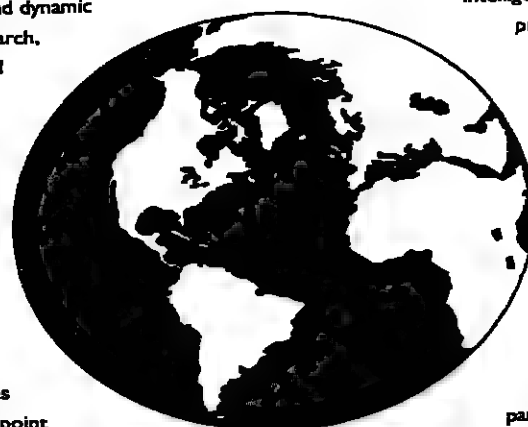
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LAW

● SEX DISCRIMINATION 45
● LAW REPORT 49



Leading candidates for prestige posts in a Labour government: Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, left, John Morris, QC, and Paul Boateng

Labour's top legal eagles

With scarcely a blink of light between the two main political parties, what can lawyers and the wider justice system expect if Labour wins on May 7?

Much discreet lobbying over the past 18 months has cleared a smooth path to Labour's door for both the Bar and Law Society. The Bar already had ready-made networks through the profession itself. Labour's magic circle is now famous for its barristers, not least Mr Blair and Cherie Booth, QC. But the Law Society, through its parliamentary team, has also been oiling the wheels of contact through regular meetings and lunches, with some success.

So lines are well open to the likely members of Labour's legal team. Top of the tree, everyone expects, would be Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Shadow Lord Chancellor and mentor to the Labour leader. The junior minister to the Lord Chancellor in the Commons is likely to go to Cherie Booth, QC, is now tipped to be Leader in the upper house, leaving the field wide open.

Would Mr Blair create some more Labour legal peers or

Frances Gibb offers the latest on the likely giants in the legal landscape should Labour win the election



Legal heavies: Jack Straw, left, Harriet Harman and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC



"parachute" in some lawyer MPs to fill the post? Possible for SG include Harriet Harman, now Shadow Social Services Secretary. Some even suggest the post could be filled from outside Parliament by a top QC — say Peter Goldsmith. Alternatively, Mr Goldsmith could become a special policy adviser. Such advisers are destined to assume more prominence under Labour: at present, the Lord Chancellor's Department has none, but Mr Blair has told each department they may appoint two.

The mood, then, of the profession is expectant. But it is far from fearful. On the criminal side, Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary and a barrister, echoes much of Michael Howard's concerns with his pledges on fast-track punishment for persistent young offenders and backing for new mandatory minimum sentences, albeit with greater judicial discretion. But some

people doubt whether the Crime (Sentences) Act would ever see the light of day. "He can't do it," one lawyer says. "The prisons would be overflowing in no time at all." Where there would be change is in the Crown Prosecution Service: officials are already gearing up to meet proposals for a shake-up of the service to give it greater regional autonomy and to break up its top-centred bureaucracy.

The profession's main concern is on the civil side, where Lord Irvine has pledged a review of legal aid spending, hand in hand with a "cost-benefit analysis" of Lord Woolf's civil justice reforms. Extra funds for Woolf are unlikely. But there is concern that the review would effectively block progress on the reforms. Chris Phillips, Law Society parliamentary officer, says: "We do have a concern in case the Woolf proposals [to speed up civil justice and cut costs] fall by the wayside. We know that

there will be no more money under Labour and so any extra funds will be at the expense of something else in the system." But the Bar is backing such a review. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar chairman, says: "We do need to do this, to see whether the reforms are worthwhile and to take a comprehensive review of the way legal aid operates and to have a more radical look at how it is provided."

Labour, like the Government, wants tough controls on legal aid. But these may be more flexible than now proposed by the Government. What Roger Smith, of the Legal Action Group, calls a "soft" rather than "hard" cap on legal aid. Either way, legal aid rates for lawyers will come under pressure, which would, Mr Phillips says, "be of concern to the profession". The Bar, however, is hopeful of ridding itself of proposals for standard fees in civil legal aid work, as well as

plans by which legal aid solicitors hold the purse-strings and pay the advocates from their budgets — but the price may be a squeeze on the costs of legal aid in the biggest cases; what Lord Irvine called the "1 per cent of cases costing more than £100 million."

As for plans for the profession itself, Mr Boateng had originally promised a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. With far bigger legal and constitutional fish to fry — a Bill of Rights, devolution, reform of the Lords — that would not be a high priority. In any event, few restrictive practices remain: chiefly these are the rule that stops direct access to barristers by members of the public; and the ban on barristers setting up shop with other professionals in multi-disciplinary partnerships. The idea of a review of these sounds rather like turning back the clock ten years to the Lord Chancellor's Green Papers.

Critics of Lord Irvine and his team say that they will prove far less radical than the present Government's ministers. So far, their proposals do nothing to dispel that view. If the party wins, it will be up to them to prove the critics wrong.

Appealing aspect of life in a democracy

Lord Justice Bowen suggested in a judgment in 1893 that "if no appeal were possible, this would not be a desirable country to live in". Mindful of the importance of the subject, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, last year asked Sir Jeffery Bowman to chair a committee to review the workings of the Court of Appeal. That committee has now published a consultation paper seeking views on a number of options for reforming the jurisdiction and procedure of the court. Interested persons have until May 2 to offer their opinions.

The Court of Appeal has a pivotal role in civil justice, hearing appeals from the High Court, county courts, the Employment Appeal Tribunal, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Social Security Commissioners and many other bodies. Annual reports by successive Masters of the Rolls over the past ten years have identified serious administrative problems, such as increasing caseloads and lengthening delays, with more and more cases being presented by litigants in person.

In his report, *Access to Justice*, Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, identified the objectives of the civil justice system: to secure just results, by a fair procedure, at a sensible cost, with reasonable speed, in a manner comprehensible to litigants, responsive to their needs, providing as much certainty as possible, and by means that are effective in the sense of being adequately resourced and organised.

The consultation paper recognises these objectives, and that the Court of Appeal "is unable to put them all into effect at present". It therefore suggests that consideration should be given to altering the jurisdiction of the court so that fewer cases come before it, and improving its efficiency by changing the manner in which it conducts its work.

The workload of the Court of Appeal can and should be reduced in the interests of all litigants (and the health of the judiciary). Disappointed litigants whose cases have been rejected by a lower court or tribunal have no entitlement to an appeal. If their claim or their defence is not well-founded, the sooner they are so informed the better. In their own interests as well as those of the opposing party and other litigants whose cases are waiting to be heard.

At present, leave to appeal is required in many, but by no means all, cases. Rules of court should provide that no case shall be heard by the Court of Appeal unless leave to appeal has been granted. If a prospective appellant is unable to satisfy the lower court or a judge of the Court of Appeal that there is

a seriously arguable case, or that there are otherwise public interest reasons for hearing an appeal (for example, to clarify an important point of law), the time of the court should not be occupied.

Applicants for leave to appeal currently have a right to an oral hearing, even where the Lord Justice who has considered the papers takes the view that the application is manifestly ill-founded. There is no justification for such a rule. The European Court of Human Rights has held that even in criminal cases there is no right to an oral hearing of an application for leave to appeal. Oral hearings of such applications should be the exception rather than the rule, taking place only if the judges of the Court of Appeal think that oral argument may help them to decide whether to grant leave. A litigant has no right to waste the resources of the court.

Renewed applications for leave to move for judicial review need not be heard by three judges, as is the current practice: two is sufficient. Unless the case involves an issue of general legal importance, appeals from county courts should be heard by a Court of Appeal consisting of one Lord Justice and one High Court judge. In fast-track county court litigation (designed for the simpler cases, in particular, defended actions in which the claim is for £10,000 or less), appeals should be heard by a High Court judge unless the issue is one of general importance.

For those cases which are heard on appeal, the Court of Appeal needs to continue its move away from unconfined oral advocacy. Judges need more time to read the skeleton arguments, the documents and relevant case law in advance of the hearing, so that they can focus the oral argument on the central issues. Judges of the Court of Appeal vary greatly in the approach they adopt in the hearings. The Court of Appeal should be more willing to impose time limits on oral argument, to focus the minds of all concerned. Most cases turn on one or two central issues, and the judges should ensure that less of the hearing is spent on a long knock-up before play actually begins.

According to Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary* (1906), "to appeal" is "to put the dice into the box for another throw". Sir Jeffery Bowman and his colleagues cannot remove all of the uncertainty of an appeal (and the consequent entertainment it provides for litigation lawyers). But the review has the opportunity to suggest some important improvements to procedures.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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From silk to a seat

MORE THAN 150 lawyers are standing for Parliament. According to the latest figures collated by the Law Society parliamentary unit, 72 solicitors and 79 barristers are seeking seats — 72 of them standing for re-election. There are 91 Conservative lawyers, 39 Labour, 18 Liberal Democrats and three for Plaid Cymru.

Thirteen lawyer MPs are standing down, including Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman and John Fraser, Labour's legal affairs spokesman.

Among new lawyers tipped for Parliament are Tory solicitors Eleanor Laing (Epping Forest), Humphrey Malins (Woking) and David Ruffley (Bury St Edmunds), and Labour solicitors Hazel Blears (Salford) and Maria Eagle (Liverpool Garston).

Cutting comment

PROFESSOR Richard Stone, dean of Nottingham Law School, is to succeed Mary Phillips as dean of the Inns of Court School of Law. The appointment means that the two top jobs in barrister training have gone to past and present Notts law school deans, who will now be rivals.

INNS AND OUTS

Nigel Savage was dean until April 1996, when he took over as head of The College of Law. The college, main provider of the solicitors' legal practice course, will also be one of the main providers of the Bar vocational course from this September.

Professor Savage welcomed Professor Stone's appointment, but said: "I'd have thought that the Bar school needed a surgeon rather than an academic."

Gallows humour

IN WHAT is probably Cameron Markby Hewitt's last

contribution to Anglo-French understanding before the firm disappears into the maw of the new Cameron McKenna combine on election day, James Burnett-Hitchcock, the senior litigation partner, invited four French senators to look at our legal system.

The French are going through their own version of the Woolf report to find ways to speed up justice. The senators met Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor.

However, they are unlikely to go down the proposed English route of more active case management by judges.

Dinners all round

LORD MACKAY of Clashfern, the outgoing Lord Chancellor, is being feted on all fronts. Sir Thomas Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, is hosting a private dinner for him: the officials who each held the office of private secretary have entertained him and even the legal correspondents of national newspapers last week held an unprecedented dinner for him.



Lord Mackay: feted

Insiders say this would probably lead to protracted cases, not shortened ones. "Case management by French judges would put the system's head in a nose," says one source. Surely the solution is simple? Give them the rights to guillotine.

Light touch

ROBERT OWEN, QC, has been assuring chambers that the Bar intends a "light touch" in its newly announced moves to implement the Bar equality code and ensure chambers' compliance. "We will not," he said, "be heavy-handed in helping chambers to implement this code. We will be consulting and co-operating with chambers."

Righting a wrong LONDON solicitors have won fresh assurances that criminal suspects will not be deprived of a lawyer during interviews at police stations.

After negotiations with the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association, the Metropolitan Police has agreed to remind officers they should inform suspects of their right to legal representation before each interview. Members had complained that duty solicitors were giving initial telephone advice to suspects only to discover that subsequent interviews were taking place without them.

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Where men still rule

The law is a ground-breaking profession, except for women, says Clare McGlynn

Sex discrimination is increasingly recognised as a fact of life in the legal profession. Achieving change, however, is difficult and slow. One strategy that can be adopted with potential success is to emphasise the business case for equality, which emphasises the fact that the training and recruitment of women lawyers is an expensive business, so sensible employers will capitalise on their investment by seeking to train and promote women lawyers. Research from the CBI and the Equal Opportunities Commission shows that equality can be costly for businesses if they do not introduce anti-sex-discrimination practices.

Opportunity 2000, a business-led campaign, provides a proven formula for putting the business case into action. It has one clear objective: to increase the quantity and quality of women's employment opportunities. Underpinning the campaign is a belief that organisations that fail to utilise their female resources are compromising competitive performance.

For law firms, membership of Opportunity 2000 could work as a focus and impetus for action, ensuring that the voices of women lawyers seeking to change the culture of a very masculine profession have a cogently researched and argued basis for their arguments and suggestions.

To illuminate this debate, the organisation Young Women Lawyers surveyed employment practices at the biggest 200 solicitors' firms. The results were disappointing for several reasons.

In 1995 YWL found that only 25 per cent of new partners in the biggest 100 firms were women. This year, we found that this figure had risen to only 27 per cent (26 per cent in the largest 200 firms). Women have been entering the profession in almost equal numbers for more than ten years, but this is still not borne out in partnership numbers.

YWL found, also in 1995, that of the biggest 100 firms, 24 per cent offered paternity leave. This figure has risen to 39 per cent, falling to 30



Celebrating female success: Cherie Blair, QC, at the Women Lawyer Conference in London this month

per cent in the largest 200 firms. Paternity leave represents a move towards a greater recognition of the role that fathers should play in the care of their children, and the evidence is that law firms are taking a step in the right direction. But progress is slow, especially when compared with the 70 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms offering paternity leave.

Figures for parental leave are even lower. Only 10 per cent of the largest 100 firms (8 per cent of the largest 200) offer parental leave, compared with 35 per cent of Opportunity 2000 firms. Almost as disturbing was the expressed ignorance of many respondents, including some of the largest City law firms, as to exactly what parental leave is.

More worrying is that the European Community has adopted a directive providing for three months' unpaid parental leave. It is not yet applicable in the UK, but a change in government may lead to the implementation of the directive. Some awareness of the directive from law

firms could surely be expected.

We sought information on the availability of part-time working for both men and women. One firm displayed its antiquated and discriminatory views on this issue by declaring that it would consider requests for part-time working from women, but "not at all for males".

There is clearly little hope that working practices and the stereotyping of men and women's roles will change while such prejudices remain. Forty-seven per cent of the largest 200 firms replied that partners could work part-time and 66 per cent of firms offered part-time work to assistant solicitors.

The final disappointing factor was the response rate: just under a third. This contrasts with a 60 per cent response rate when YWL carried out its first survey two years ago. This time we did not warn firms that we would name them if they did not respond. Surely it would not take such a threat for law

firms to respond? Some firms refused to disclose information on their policies. Perhaps they were embarrassed to reveal the few numbers of women partners or the lack of appropriate employment practices; or perhaps they were keen to keep such valuable information out of the marketplace.

To ensure real equality for women lawyers, real institutional change is required. The development of more flexible and "family-friendly" employment policies would be a move in the right direction, and the lessons and membership of Opportunity 2000 could help to bring this forward.

The author is a lecturer in law at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and Chair of Young Women Lawyers. Lady Howe, Chairman of Opportunity 2000, and Tony Girling, Law Society President, will discuss the role of Opportunity 2000 and the business case for equality at an open meeting next Tuesday at 6.30pm in the Old Council Chamber of the Law Society. To attend, send a cheque (£3 members, £5 others) payable to YWL, 76 Milton Grove, London W16 8QY. Further details: 0191-222 7616.

Edward Fennell reports on an opportunity for lawyers

British firms bridge the Gulf

The European Union is paying increasing attention to the Arab world (known euphemistically in Brussels as "the Mediterranean countries"). Last week it held a 27-nation Euro-Med conference in Malta and this week its Communities Corporation Programme is sponsoring a conference in Abu Dhabi organised by the British Middle East Law Council to examine legal developments in the Gulf area.

The BMEL is widely complimented for doing a good job in waving the flag on behalf of "British invisibles" and the conference is of considerable importance for UK law firms operating in the region.

The Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry have given their backing to the event and the British ambassador, Anthony Harris, is making a keynote speech.

Featured on the programme are speakers from most of the top London firms, including Allen & Overy, Freshfields and Linklaters & Paines, while the driving force behind the event is Ibrahim Kanaan, the secretary-general of the BMEL, who is also a lawyer with Elliott & Co.

Mr Kanaan says it is vital that London lawyers should demonstrate their collective commitment to this part of the Middle East. He says: "The Gulf is the most stable part of the region. Increasingly, the law practised locally is being required to meet international criteria."

"For example, there are developing capital markets in the Gulf and the area is being seen as an arbitration centre. In the light of this, there has been a need to update both the British and the Gulf legal professions about what has been happening. An exercise in comparative law of this kind is valuable."

One of the most delicate issues is how western financial techniques, which are the bread and butter of a City lawyer's life, can be reconciled with Islamic law and, in particular, its prohibition on charging interest.

Even some of the speakers at the conference admit privately that



Kanaan: driving force behind a conference in Abu Dhabi

they are mystified by the devices used to get round the problem.

The trigger to this development is the quickening process of economic transformation. Some states are starting to see the end of their oil reserves. Others are no longer content to sit back passively on oil revenues.

Industry is starting to develop

"There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil, but this is stimulating these initiatives"

and new ways of raising money are being adopted — hence the capital market.

Much of the investment is coming from the US and the risk is that this could create an opportunity for US lawyers to grab most of the work.

London's advantages are its traditional links with the region and its experience in developing public and private partnerships. In particular, the British experience of the private finance initiative is attracting considerable interest from Gulf bankers and lawyers — so much so that most of the Linklaters' session at the conference is devoted to explaining how PFI works.

Simon Burch of Linklaters says: "There is no longer the huge pot of money from oil that there used to be in the Gulf, but this is stimulating these economic and industrial initiatives. At Linklaters we have an excellent project finance practice, so of course we feel we have a lot to contribute to these initiatives as they get off the ground."

Linklaters' practice in the area is described as "steady" with enough work coming through to make it a sustainable interest to the partnership.

Firms such as Clifford Chance, Allen & Overy, Richards Butler and Simmons & Simmons have long-standing offices in the area, while those who do not continue to debate the merits of opening there.

One possible threat to London lawyers, however, is an increasing "Gulfisation" of professional services. This could mean that non-local firms are squeezed out.

One of the most significant signs of this trend occurred last autumn when Richards Butler set up in Oman in conjunction with a local law firm, Said Al-Shahry.

According to Said Al-Shahry, the principal at Said Al-Shahry Law Office, he had wanted to link up for some time with a western law firm to take advantage of the new business opportunities.

He says: "Oman is enjoying a high level of economic activity and foreign investors and businesses are participating in an unprecedented way."

The BMEL is helping to ensure that London gets some of the benefits from this growth.

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Harbottle & Lewis provides legal and strategic advice to a wide range of clients, most of whom are involved in our specialist industry areas of media/entertainment/sport, property investment and aviation. A high proportion of the firm's senior lawyers are recognised leaders in their fields of practice.

As part of the firm's development and expansion, we are recruiting a solicitor of about four years qualification to take a key role in our tax and trusts group. Candidates should have a pro-active and innovative approach, a good academic background and experience in the fields of tax planning, wills, trusts and probate. An ability to understand and relate to a wide variety of clients, many of whom will be in the entertainment and media industries, is essential.

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Allen & Overy is one of the leading international law firms with over 1600 staff working in 15 major centres world-wide. The Corporate Department has gone from strength to strength in recent years and includes specialist areas such as Insurance.

The increasing sophistication of insurance and risk finance techniques requires a flexible and creative approach to business opportunities by the insurance industry. To help us meet this need, we are looking for additional high calibre lawyers to join our Insurance Group.

The Insurance Group combines expertise in insurance with experience of other market sectors and jurisdictions, so that it applies a wide range of legal and commercial techniques to insurance issues and brings an innovative approach to solving legal problems and developing business opportunities.

The work includes advising on mergers and acquisitions involving participants in the insurance industry often on a cross border basis, regulation and the establishment of Lloyd's corporate capital vehicles. There is also the opportunity to be involved in project finance transactions.

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Please send your CV to: Christine Lynch, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ or call her on 0171 330 4103.

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The Structured Finance Department of a major investment bank is looking for a Head of Department to lead a team of four lawyers. The bank is looking for someone with equity derivatives or fixed income derivatives experience. This candidate will already be at one of the top ten firms or another top investment bank and will have handled this type of work for at least five years. Excellent remuneration which will be given in return for drive and commitment. Ref: T11751.E

CORPORATE FINANCE/MEDIA
2 to 5 Years Qualified
to £65,000
High profile Central London firm is seeking additional lawyers for its Corporate Department to practice primarily corporate finance work for a client base involving niche areas such as telecoms and media. The firm has a strong international profile and candidates are assured exposure to clients and responsibility from day one. Candidates should have a strong academic background and training from a practice known in this area. Ref: T11453.J

BANKING - IN-HOUSE
4 to 9 Years Qualified
£100,000+
Leading investment bank with a large, established legal department, is seeking an additional commercial banking lawyer to join its team. The ideal candidate will have a background in mainstream commercial banking issues from a top twenty firm and equally importantly, the ability to command respect at all levels plus a confident, outgoing personality. Ref: T105418.J

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
NQ to 4 Years Qualified
to £55,000
Leading City firm with a rapidly expanding commercial property group requires an additional assistant to handle a broad range of work including institutional and corporate support work. The firm's policy is to provide full training and assistants are encouraged to be generalists. The firm will consider applications from solicitors qualifying in September 1997 (good academic and minimum of six months training experience required). Ref: T17252.C

BANKING
3 to 7 Years Qualified
to £100,000
Leading City firm with a major international presence requires an additional senior assistant, with a view to partnership, to join a department of four partners and seven assistants. The firm requires assistants who have remained generalists in banking. The three key departments are derivatives, project finance and general banking. The firm will consider applications from solicitors in private practice or in-house with a bank. Partnership prospects will be discussed. Ref: T5463.C

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
1 to 4 Years Qualified
This is a full international partnership with 160+ partners worldwide, over 70 in Sydney and a corporate department of over 15 partners who act on privatisations, takeovers and substantial M&A transactions. They seek and will sponsor visit applications for UK lawyers provided they have worked in another leading firm but are also interested in Australian or New Zealanders. Ref: T11198.D

CORPORATE TAX
Senior
to £Partnership
This is an unusual position with a medium sized and very progressive City firm with a particularly strong Company Department. A senior tax specialist is now sought to advise the tax department and maximise the genuinely huge potential that is very easily available. A strong personality and leadership skills are essential for this position but strong technical ability and an ability to translate often complex concepts into "plain English" are paramount. Ref: T11548.G

CORPORATE AND BANKING
1 to 4 Years Qualified
Melbourne
One of the leading Melbourne practices is actively recruiting good corporate and banking lawyers to work in Australia. They will be interviewing candidates in London very soon and are particularly interested in seeing Australians/New Zealanders but will also sponsor exceptional UK lawyers. The firm has a superb client base of leading Australian and international banks and blue chip corporates. Ref: T11645.D

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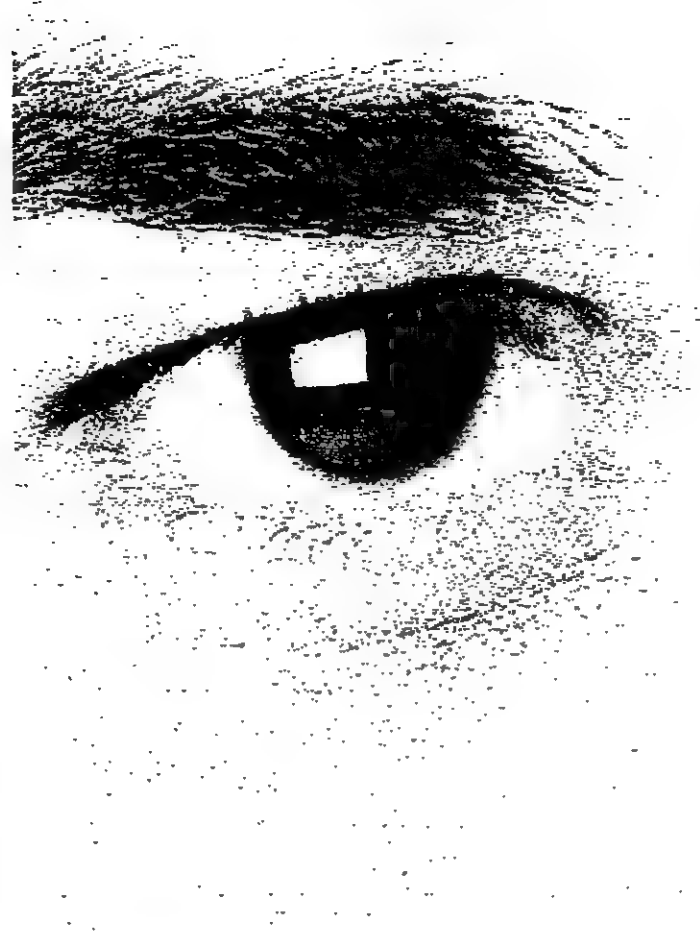
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Most candidates know how important it is to present well at interviews. Those who dress down, chew gum, slouch in with hands in pockets, or sit in reception reading a copy of *The Sun*, are probably less than enthusiastic about the vacancy. They are asking out some private compulsion of their own. However, even normal candidates can find it difficult to gauge what will create the right impression.

Two recent interviewees. The first was a candidate who went to see a City firm dressed in his best shirt and tie, with his best rings on his finger. The shirt was a striking shade of yellow, the tie was flowery, and the jewellery was simply excessive. Fortunately, the interviewer shed him, and rang us to suggest that if he returned for a second interview, he might consider a more conventional appearance. This he did, and got the job.

The second was a candidate who was impressive in all respects other than his weak handshake. The personnel manager rang us to suggest that when meeting the senior partner (who had a thing about handshakes) the candidate be rather more forceful. We passed this on, and he, too, was offered a job.

One advantage of using recruitment consultants is that they can tell things which it would be embarrassing to tell candidates direct.

Michael Chambers

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Our legal directory is available from 01408 - 710 971

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Oil Lawyer: Aberdeen

Sole or bar with approx 7 years' experience to join UK subsidiary of major independent oil company. Work will include joint, farm-ins, acquisitions and disposals. Good business sense and experience of UKCS essential.

Eng/Construction: London

Commercial lawyer with min 3 years' ppe reqd to join construction co as sole legal adviser. Good drafting skills essential. Work will include JV's, employment law and IP.

Commercial: North West

Major international co seeks solicitor/barrister 6 months to 2 years' ppe. Broad workload will include drafting agreements, product liability and M & A work. Science background useful.

PRIVATE PRACTICE SOUTH: Helen Mills, Alison Shepherd, Noel Murray

LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

NORTH: Suki Bahra, Paul Thomas

Banking/Regulatory Litigation: City

Leading City firm seeks 2-4 year qualified litigation solicitor with banking and financial services experience to join highly regarded team handling exceptional work.

Litigation Partner: WC2

Successful, high profile mid-sized commercial firm seeks outstanding commercial lit solicitor with a dedicated client following to join as a partner.

IP Litigation: City

Senior IP specialist with trade mark and patent litigation experience sought by 50 partner City firm. High rewards and real prospects for committed lawyer.

Private Client Partner: C. London

One of the leading specialist private client firms seeks senior solicitor to inherit practices of two partners due to retire. Property expertise useful for firm's landed clientele.

Commercial Property: US Firm

London office of leading East Coast firm seeks 3-6 year qualified solicitor for heavyweight development projects in UK and Europe for substantial US investors.

Travel Company: London

High profile company needs a 2-6 years' ppe solicitor to handle commercial litigation, conveyancing, employment and contracts. Excellent drafting skills essential and languages would be useful.

Leasing: London

International finance company needs lawyer with minimum 5 years' ppe. You must have experience of leasing work and will also handle M & A. Role will involve a considerable amount of travel.

Commercial: London

International broadcasting company requires a lawyer with approximately 2 years' ppe. General commercial work will include employment and IP matters.

Senior Corporate Finance: City

Medium-sized firm offers 5-7 year qualified solicitor excellent partnership prospects in flourishing dept handling full listings, AIM flotations and M & A.

Telecoms Partner: City

Formidable IT and multi-media practice with unrivalled international network seeks senior solicitor to lead development of telecoms unit.

Company/Commercial: Kent

Large commercial firm with enviable client portfolio seeks corporate lawyer c. 2-5 years' experience to handle wide range of work. £ City rates.

September 1997 Qualifiers

Firms throughout the North are now interviewing for various commercial and non-commercial commercial positions. Please call for details.

Legal Researcher

Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Reema SenGupta: 0171-606 1300.

CURRENT CONTRACTS

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant solicitor sought by this small commercial firm, based in the City, whilst they are looking for a suitable permanent candidate. Applicants should have experience of both contentious and non-contentious employment law and should also have dealt with both employers and employees. Contract to start immediately for a 3-6 month period. Ref: 39757

FAMILY

Widely based, general London practice requires a solicitor to assist with heavy workload as soon as possible. Ideally candidates must have at least 3+ years' ppe together with up-to-date divorce and child care experience. Ref: 38537

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Progressive and much respected City firm, needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor with corporate experience from a similar City background. Immediate start, to assist with heavy workload. Contract is open ended at this stage. Ref: 38856

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

Legal department of this public sector group wishes to recruit a solicitor for a 1 year contract to start immediately. Experience of drafting contracts, ideally performance based service contracts, essential; experience of computer contracts an advantage. Ref: 28645

FINANCE

Ranking/finance lawyer, with 1-5 years' ppe, sought by this small niche London firm. Contract is to start immediately and will be open-ended, with the possibility of becoming permanent. Ref: 39761

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Well established firm, with a broad based practice, seeks an experienced commercial property lawyer for a 6 month contract which could become permanent. The position has arisen as a result of a heavy workload and candidates must be able to work on an unsupervised basis. Ref: 39493

COMMERCIAL/COMPLIANCE

Life assurance arm of merchant bank seeks a qualified lawyer, for their regional office, to assist with the drafting of policy conditions in order to comply with regulations. This will be a one-off project to start within a month. Ref: 38536

NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating of precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part-time or full-time. Ref: 39613

COMMERCIAL/LEASING

Solicitor/barrister, with around 5 years' ppe, sought by this leasing company to cover for a maternity leave. Candidates must have experience of asset leasing, as well as having a more general commercial background. Contract is to start mid-May for 6 months. Ref: 39588

EMERGING MARKETS

London based investment bank seeks a solicitor/barrister with a minimum of 3 years' experience in emerging markets to join the legal team for a 3-6 month contract. Experience required must include funded loans, securities and repos. Immediate start. Ref: 39709



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OPPORTUNITIES

CONSTRUCTION

Major opportunities at this top 10 firm for a lawyer with 0-3 years' ppe in construction dispute resolution and a lawyer with 0-2 years' ppe in non-contentious construction work. Also needs lawyers with c.4 years' ppe with experience of drafting English law-governed EPC/construction and other documents. Ref: T26843

PRIVATE CLIENT

This well-known medium-sized City firm has a market-leading private client practice, making it the perfect move for a lawyer with 3+ years' experience of offshore and offshore trusts, wills and tax planning. This is seen as a key position in the department, and the pay and prospects reflect this. Ref: T39554

INFORMATION OFFICER

Work at one of the City's leading firms without all the stress. This is a great opportunity for an experienced corporate or commercial lawyer to work full- or part-time as this top 20 firm's information officer. The challenge and rewards will be excellent. Ref: T39417

DEFAMATION

This is the perfect firm to build your reputation as a defamation lawyer. If you have 0-5 years' ppe, you will take on a very important role in the market-leading practice and will be very well rewarded. You must have good experience, as well as a high level of stamina and energy for a demanding but exciting job. Ref: T36159

CORPORATE TAX

Working as a vital cog in this top 20 City firm's corporate wheel, you will be working on the full range of tax matters, from property to shipping, as well as advising a substantial base of your own clients. You will have 1-3 years' ppe and can expect some very exciting prospects. Ref: T39587

IN-HOUSE DERIVATIVES

This is the place to be if you want to advise on almost every type of derivative. One of the world's leading investment houses needs lawyers with either 2 or 4 years' relevant ppe at leading City firms or other banks to join the team and receive a quite excellent package. Work will be very varied. Ref: T39528

JUNIOR CORPORATE/TELECOMS

This medium-sized City firm has a market-leading reputation for corporate work, especially in multi-media. It therefore has a fantastic client list across all departments and offers a very bright future to corporate and telecoms lawyers with 0-1 years' ppe. Ref: T39585

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Pescod, Adrian Fox or Jonathan Marsden (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-228 0476 or 0171-286 1441 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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The Law Officers are assisted by a team of 6 professional lawyers, 3 of whom are Crown Advocates, and it is the appointment of one of the latter as the new Magistrate in Guernsey which has led to the present vacancy arising (as from the 1st October 1997).

Applicants should be qualified to practise law in England and Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland and have, preferably, at least 5 years' experience, either in general common law practice, criminal work, legislative drafting or governmental work, or a mixture thereof.

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Further information on the post, application forms and notes on the conditions of service, may be obtained from the Secretary to the Law Officers, St James Chambers, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2PA (telephone: 01481 723355).

Completed application forms should be returned to the Head of Personnel and Establishments, Civil Service Board, Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 1RH to arrive no later than 16 May 1997.

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LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

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A major City firm with a balanced portfolio of finance, development and construction companies, our Client's practice in this area has expanded dramatically in recent years. The firm offers an outstanding opportunity for a 6 year plus qualified lawyer with substantial construction skills. For partners transferring over, the firm's merit remuneration structure will immediately reward high flyers. (Ref:9662)

IN-HOUSE M&A

Unusual role within one of the City's leading investment banks. A corporate finance lawyer is sought to take a lead role in supporting the bank's corporate finance business and advise on UK and cross border M&A and related issues. High profile role within a very profitable area of the bank. Will also involve a responsible role with a significant commercial element in a highly rewarding environment. (Ref:9652)

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This uncommonly sponsored law firm is proving successful in achieving an ambitious plan for growth to a legal practice of some 100 lawyers by year end. If you are a first rate corporate or commercial solicitor looking for a move to a smaller but high quality team where your contribution will really count, this is well worth exploring. Premium salaries and dynamic and progressive environment. (Ref:9459)

INSOLVENCY

1-4 year qualified insolvency specialists are invited to apply for a position with this leading City firm. The team of contentious and non-contentious lawyers is busy and work levels continue to increase. In order to maintain a balanced outlook, the firm wants to spread the load and grow the team at the assistant solicitor level. You will join a pre-eminent name in the insolvency field. (Ref:9466)

PROPERTY LITIGATION

Junior position for a 1-3 year qualified lawyer has arisen to specialise in property disputes with this international firm. The team will consider both property and litigation solicitors with a desire to combine both disciplines. You need a genuine interest in property, a clear friendly manner and outgoing personality. You will work in a frontline role with young and enthusiastic partners. Training will be given. (Ref:9288)

For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other private practice vacancies registered with us, please contact Andrew Cautfield or Yvonne Smyth (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (01483-828110 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail andrewc@zmb.co.uk

SENIOR EMPLOYMENT

This medium sized but expanding City law firm is seeking to strengthen its employment law team. Already pre-eminent in this area and with a healthy and productive work environment the team is stable with an excellent quality client base. As a result of an ambitious business plan an additional partner is sought to help drive the practice forward. (Ref:9686)

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Leading investment bank seeks lawyer to be responsible for all legal and regulatory matters relating to its European private client services. Will handle and manage all related legal projects including structuring products, negotiating agreements and risk management. 3-5 years' experience from a City law firm or bank is essential, with experience of negotiating investment management documentation. This is a proactive role which requires significant initiative and creativity. (Ref:9651)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The Property Department in this active City practice has an impressive client base for its size and the flow of quality instructions continues unabated. As a result, the partners seek an assistant, ideally 1-4 years' qualified, technically competent and with an outgoing personality, who is seeking quality of work and quality of life. (Ref:9393)

BANKING

This collegial and well managed City law firm, led by a friendly team of partners, is expanding its banking practice at the 2-4 year level. The work will be challenging but not repetitive as the firm does not handle high volume, documentation driven, capital markets work. Broad ranging finance experience would be ideal. (Ref:9438)

COMMERCIAL LEISURE

A newly or recently qualified solicitor is sought by this Central London firm which boasts an impressive transport, aviation, leisure and commercial practice. With an unusual and interesting blend of commercial clients you will gain interesting and high quality experience. Strong academics, commercial training and good drafting and negotiation skills are required. (Ref:9667)

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Court of Appeal

Law Report April 22 1997

Privy Council

Council duty after children placed in care

Barrett v Enfield London Borough Council

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann
(Judgment March 25)

It was contrary to the public interest to impose a duty of care on a local authority in respect of those decisions as to the future of a child in its care which would normally have been made by a parent.

However, if a social worker was careless in implementing decisions relating to a child in care, the local authority could be held to be vicariously liable for the resulting damage.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Keith Trevor Barrett, against the decision of Judge Brandt at Colchester County Court on April 30, 1996 to strike out his claim against the London Borough of Enfield for damages for personal injuries.

Mr Allan Levy, QC and Miss Elizabeth Gumbel for the plaintiff; Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Mr Brendan Roche for the local authority.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in *X (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* ([1995] 2 AC 633) the House of Lords was concerned with the extent of the duty owed by local authorities to children prior to their being taken into care. The present appeal concerned the extent of the duty owed by local authorities after children had been placed in their care.

The plaintiff, who was aged 10 months when a care order was made in favour of the local authority and who remained in care until he was approaching the age of 18, claimed damages for breach of duty at common law by the authority and its employees. He alleged that the authority was under a duty to act as would a parent and to show the standard of care which could be expected of a responsible parent.

There was, he alleged, a duty to protect him from physical, emotional, psychiatric or psychological injury, to provide him with education and a home where his safety would be secured and monitored, to promote his development, to plan both his short term and long term future, to secure his rights to family life and to provide competent and suitably qualified and experienced social workers to monitor his welfare. He also alleged that the social workers who were responsible for looking after him were under similar duties.

Among the complaints which were made were failing to arrange for his adoption, inappropriate placements with foster parents and community homes and the lack of proper monitoring and supervision while he was at the different placements.

There was also criticism of the failure to obtain appropriate psychiatric treatment and failing properly to manage his reintroduction to his mother after he had not seen her for 11 years and criticism of how his relationship with his half sister was managed.

There had been no previous decision establishing a common law duty in those circumstances, so it was necessary to consider whether it was just and reasonable to extend the common law duty of care to a local authority when it was performing its duties to protect and promote the welfare of children in its care.

In relation to children who were not in its care in *X (Minors)* the House of Lords did not consider it as appropriate to superimpose a common law duty of care over and above the local authority's statutory responsibilities for children. It was not possible to directly transpose the reasoning in *X (Minors)* to the present situation. However, in relation to the decisions of the local authority which it was alleged could have contributed to the psychiatric and psychological difficulties of which the plaintiff complained, it would be contrary to the public interest and therefore not just and reasonable to impose a duty of care.

The very fact that the authority was stated to have been in the position of a parent to the plaintiff at the material time brought home the public policy aspects of the situation. The decisions often required a difficult and delicate balancing of conflicting interests.

Parents were daily making decisions with regard to their children's future and it would be wholly inappropriate that those decisions, even if they could be shown to be wrong, should be ones which gave rise to a liability for damages. If the decisions were

taken by the local authority in place of the parents the position should be the same.

It would be unfortunate if the possibility of litigation years afterwards could cause a more defensive and cautious approach to taking positive decisions as to a child's future than would otherwise be the case.

Social workers were all too often open to criticism for intervening but intervening was often what was necessary and when it was they should not be discouraged from doing so by the possibility of litigation. It would be intolerable if social workers adopted a safety first approach.

If complaint was to be made, then an investigation by an ombudsman was more likely to result in a satisfactory conclusion than the investigation by the courts. The ombudsman could award compensation for misfeasance in appropriate cases.

The plaintiff relied on the assumption of the Court of Appeal in *Capital and Counties plc v Hampshire County Council* ([1996] 2 AC 413) that, in principle, with which his Lordship agreed, that "there is no general immunity for professionals or others carrying out difficult tasks in stressful circumstances."

However, his Lordship was not suggesting blanket immunity but an immunity in relation to the making of those decisions as to the future of a child which were normally made by a parent.

If it was not fair or just to make the authority directly liable for the way it exercised its discretion when

carrying for the plaintiff, then equally there would be no justification for placing the social workers who in practice would exercise the discretion on behalf of the local authority in any different position.

Social workers and other members of the staff could, however, be negligent in an operational manner. They could, for example, be careless in listing property belonging to the child or in reporting what they had observed for the purposes of an interdisciplinary assessment of what action should be taken in relation to a child. They could also be negligent in failing to carry out instructions properly.

In implementing his own decision or decisions of the authority, a social worker was careless, there would be a case for the authority being vicariously liable if the necessary causation of injury or other damage could be established.

However, although complaints as to that type of conduct were made, there could be no prospect of the plaintiff succeeding on those complaints alone. He would be quite unable to attribute any part of his condition to that sort of conduct.

The plaintiff had no realistic prospect of succeeding on the allegations in his particulars of claim. His Lordship was therefore in agreement with the decision of the judge to strike out the claim.

Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Thompson Smith & Puxton, Colchester; Browne Jacobson, Nottingham.

Criteria for reversing finding of fact

Hossack v General Dental Council

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead and Lord Hutton
(Judgment April 16)

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council would reverse a finding of fact by the professional conduct committee of the General Dental Council if that finding was of such an extent that the members of the committee must have misunderstood that evidence.

Their Lordships so held in allowing an appeal by the appellant, Robert Julian Hossack, against the committee's determination on November 20, 1996, that he was guilty of serious professional misconduct and that his name be erased from the dentists' register.

Mr James Badenoch, QC, for the appellant; Miss Joanna Glynn for the General Dental Council.

LORD LLOYD said that the charge against the appellant was that he had accepted three patients for dental treatment as National Health Service patients in the course of which he failed to employ a proper degree of skill and attention in providing treatment for them, and failed to carry out treatments necessary to secure the oral health of Mr Stephen Gerald Duck and Mrs Yuk-kuen Hou, and that in relation to the facts alleged he had been guilty of serious professional misconduct.

The other patient was Mrs Coral Patricia Lawson.

Mr Duck was treated by the appellant in 1992. He had been a patient of the appellant for about 14 years. His teeth needed a great deal of attention. In addition to ordinary fillings, the appellant carried out a root treatment of one tooth and replaced the crown.

In November, 1992, Mr Duck was seen by Mr Bull, the dental reference officer, as part of Mr Bull's routine duties. In a report Mr Bull criticised the appellant's treatment of that tooth. The dental services committee subsequently recommended a withholding of £2,000, which was reduced on appeal to £500.

Mr Hou had also been a patient of the appellant for about 14 years. She attended for treatment in 1992 with a broken tooth which she asked him to save if possible. Three weeks after the treatment was completed the crown fell out.

That defence had been torpedoed by the convincing evidence of one customer, Mr Jones, who had complained that they had supplied him, instead of the six Windows disks he needed, five clearly non-authentic disks which he had due course returned to them with the PC, but without eliciting any comment.

His Lordship had found the defendants' version of that episode to the highest degree implausible and their attempt to explain it away, by attacking Mr Jones's honesty, most deplorable.

As to (b), Microsoft relied both on section 10(3) of the Act and on evidence from a paralegal employed to maintain records of Microsoft's copyright properties.

Mr Hossack's answer had been that section 10(3) only shifted the burden of proof to the defendants, who were still entitled to put substance and ownership in issue.

But in the present context that argument was misconceived. The defendants did not assert that they had a defence under (b), but only an ungrounded, *Mikawer*, hope that something would turn up.

Finally, in relation to ownership, it was wholly improbable that a company of the size of Microsoft would fail to take the elementary precautions necessary to ensure that it owned the copyright in its major assets.

Solicitors: Covington & Burling; Morgan Bruce.

but it was replaced and had given no trouble thereafter.

She was seen by Mr Bull, who criticised the appellant's treatment of that tooth. The dental services committee recommended a withholding of £1,000, which was reduced on appeal to £750.

Ms Lawson became a patient of the appellant in 1994. She needed 10 fillings, two crowns and a replacement bridge to span three teeth. She did not like the look of the bridge and in November, 1994, she complained about it to the family health services authority.

In December, 1995, she was seen by Mr Martin Kelleher, a consultant restorative dentist. He re-arranged the bridge, but was unsatisfactory in four specified respects. The case was referred to the dental services committee. £1,000 was withheld and the appellant was ordered to repay £500 to Ms Lawson.

In due course, the appellant was called before the professional conduct committee. On November 20, 1996, the chairman announced that the facts alleged in the charge had been proved, and later he announced that in relation to those facts the committee had found the appellant guilty of serious professional misconduct.

As to the Privy Council's approach, their Lordships had been referred to *Libman v General Medical Council* ([1972] AC 217, 221), where it was said that "the only circumstances in which an appellate court can reverse a view of the facts taken by the disciplinary committee would be a case where, on examination, it would appear that the committee had misread the evidence to such an extent that they were not entitled to make a finding in the state of the evidence presented before them."

It was said (at p221) that it was difficult for an appellate to displace a finding or order of the committee "unless it can be shown that something was clearly wrong either (i) in the course of the trial or (ii) in the legal principles applied or (iii) unless it can be shown that the findings of the committee were sufficiently out of tune with the evidence to indicate with reasonable certainty that the evidence had been misread."

For the reasons mentioned in *Libman's* case, and in many subsequent appeals, the Privy Council was always reluctant to take a different view of the evidence than the highly qualified

members of a professional conduct committee, but it would on occasion feel compelled to do so.

The expert witness called by Miss Glynn in support of the charge was Mr Kelleher. If he had given evidence in accordance with his report their Lordships would have dismissed the appellant's appeal without much hesitation. But he did not.

His evidence, both in chief and in cross-examination, was favourable to the appellant. He said that there was no need to replace the bridge unless Mrs Lawson wanted a replacement for cosmetic reasons. By itself, his evidence could not support a charge of failing to employ a proper degree of skill and attention in Mrs Lawson's case.

Miss Glynn also called Mr Anthony Francis Clough. He was in a somewhat anomalous position since he had been a member of the dental services committee in the case of all three patients and subsequently accepted Mrs Lawson as a patient.

He would have been bound to want to defend his decision to replace the bridge. Where his evidence conflicted with that of Mr Kelleher their Lordships had no doubt that Mr Kelleher's evidence was to be preferred.

Having reviewed the evidence in relation to Mr Lawson, their Lordships felt bound to conclude that the finding of the committee in relation to her was out of tune with the evidence to such an extent that the members of the committee must have misunderstood what he was saying. The finding of fact that the committee in relation to Mrs Lawson could not stand.

The finding of serious professional misconduct could not rest on the findings of fact in relation to the other two patients. The finding of serious professional misconduct was explicitly based on the facts found to have been proved in relation to all three patients.

Since the committee was wrong to find the facts proved in relation to Mrs Lawson, part of the foundation for the overall finding of serious professional misconduct had gone. In those circumstances the overall finding could not stand. Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be allowed and the appellant's name restored to the register.

Solicitors: Le Brasseur J. Tickle; Field Fisher Waterhouse.

Court finds breach of copyright defence wanting

Microsoft Corporation v Electro-World Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Laddie
(Judgment April 16)

On hearing a summons for summary judgment, the High Court had to be careful before it deprived a defendant of the opportunity of having his evidence tested at trial, but where applying the court's facilities to the whole of a situation, the court concluded a defence to be incredible, it had to say so.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the *Chaucery Division*, in giving summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for Microsoft Corporation, the plaintiff, against Electro-World Ltd and Atlantic Business Systems Ltd for: 1) injunctions restraining them from (a) without licence reproducing, or issuing to the public, or possessing distributing selling or exposing for sale in the course of business, any substantial part of any piece of computer software; 2) computer software in which it owned copyright; 3) infringing any of its copyrights in such software; 4) directing counselling procuring or authorising any other

person firm or company so to do and

2) Orders for delivery up of offending material and various types of disclosure on affidavit and

3) An inquiry as to damages for infringement with a direction that on an inquiry the court should consider whether an award of additional damages pursuant to section 97(2) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 would be appropriate.

Section 3 of the 1988 Act provides: "(1) 'Literary work' means any work, other than a dramatic or musical work... and accordingly includes... (b) a computer program..."

Section 17 provides: "(1) The copying of the work is an act restricted by the copyright in every description of copyright work..."

"(2) Copying in relation to a literary work means reproducing the work in any material form. This includes storing the work in any medium by electronic means."

Section 18 provides: "(1) The issue to the public of copies of the work is an act restricted by the copyright in every description of copyright work..."

Section 105 provides: "(3) In proceedings... with respect to a computer program, where copies of the program are issued to the public in electronic form bearing a statement... (a) that a named person was the owner of copyright in the program at the date of issue of the copies... the statement shall be admissible as evidence of the facts stated and shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved."

Mr Michael Teppin for Microsoft; Mr Martin Howe, QC, for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said it was common knowledge that Microsoft was the proprietor of a range of computer software, in particular under the names "MS-DOS" and "Windows", sold on a vast scale world-wide.

The defendants were original equipment manufacturers ("OEMs") who bought in parts from a variety of suppliers, fitted computers to their own specifications, and sold them to the public under their own brand names.

Before a personal computer ("PC") could function it had to be loaded with one or more operating systems. Most PCs sold to the public were supplied with software pre-loaded by the manufacturer.

To load copyright software, which involved copying it on to the hard disk storage system in the PC, would be an infringement, unless licensed by the copyright owner.

Microsoft sold its MS-DOS and Windows products to assemblers and manufacturers of PCs exclusively in the form of a shrink-wrapped "OEM product" containing (i) disks or a CD-ROM containing a copy of the software (ii) instruction manuals (iii) an end-user licence agreement, and (iv) a certificate of authenticity, containing a hologram and bearing an individual number.

Any OEM would have the expertise to make multiple unlicensed copies of software and sell those copies with their own labels. If they did, customers would not get the authentic disks, CD-ROMs, manual, end-user licence agreement or certificate.

In this action, Microsoft claimed such unlicensed copying and customer sales, relying on representations with law makers, the public and an inquiry agency a formidable collection of evidence.

The defendants' case for the existence of a fair probability of having a bona fide defence to that were (i) doubts that they had infringed section 17 or 18 of the Act, (ii) doubts that Microsoft owned any copyright that might exist in the MS-DOS and Windows family of software.

As to (i), Microsoft responded that unlicensed loading of its software on to those customers' PCs was an act of copying and subsequent supply of PCs, so loaded, acts of issuing to the public. Mr Howe, basing on the plural "copies" in section 18, contended that an isolated act of issue had intentionally been excluded from the Act.

Even if that were right, which was strongly disputed by

Microsoft, the whole thrust of the defendants' case had been that every PC they sold was to meet the specification of the customer to whom it went and, occasional sections, their first policy was never to load his PC with Microsoft software without setting aside a complete OEM product for him.

Further, they had claimed they did not have the facilities to make and had never made illicit copies of disks.

That defence had been torpedoed by the convincing evidence of one customer, Mr Jones, who had complained that they had supplied him, instead of the six Windows disks he needed, five clearly non-authentic disks which he had due course returned to them with the PC, but without eliciting any comment.

His Lordship had found the defendants' version of that episode to the highest degree implausible and their attempt to explain it away, by attacking Mr Jones's honesty, most deplorable.

As to (ii), Microsoft relied both on section 10(3) of the Act and on evidence from a paralegal employed to maintain records of Microsoft's copyright properties.

Mr Hossack's answer had been that section 10(3) only shifted the burden of proof to the defendants, who were still entitled to put substance and ownership in issue.

But in the present context that argument was misconceived. The defendants did not assert that they had a defence under (b), but only an ungrounded, *Mikawer*, hope that something would turn up.

Finally, in relation to ownership, it was wholly improbable that a company of the size of Microsoft would fail to take the elementary precautions necessary to ensure that it owned the copyright in its major assets.

Solicitors: Covington & Burling; Morgan Bruce.

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Judge can devise own procedure in crown court

Regina v Leicester Crown Court, Ex parte Phillips

Before Mr Justice Collins
(Judgment March 12)

A crown court judge acting alone was entitled to exercise the inherent power of the court to regulate its own practices by devising a procedure that was fair and just when there was no existing applicable practice.

Mr Justice Collins so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing the application of Michael John Phillips for judicial review of the decision of Judge Christopher Young at Leicester Crown Court on November 15, 1996, ordering consolidation of his appeal against the refusal of the Rolls, recognised the well established principle that every court had inherent power to regulate its own practices, saying that it was "for the judges collectively, as a collegiate body, to decide whether or not to modify general practices" and to modify by practice directions.

But if no practice existed because the situation was so unusual, as in the instant case, the individual judge would himself have to devise a procedure that was fair and just and met those particular circumstances.

Provided that what he did was not contrary to statute or existing practice, the judge had a right to do it and if what he did was unfair, an aggrieved party could seek judicial review or appeal against the decision if an appeal existed.

Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Cole & Cole, Oxford; Harvey Ingram Owsen, Leicester.

Mr John Mining, QC and Mr Jonathan Goring for Mr Phillips; Mr Richard Most for Mr Phillips; Mr Matthew Cowie for Everards, both appellants below.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said that the judge decided to consolidate the three appeals because they were closely inter-related and he would have had to compare their relative merits.

Section 74(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 stated that the "customary practice and procedure with respect to appeals to the crown court" shall be observed, but it appeared that there was no customary practice.

In *Abbe v Smith* ([1986] QB 536, 559) Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, recognised the well established principle that every court had inherent power to regulate its own practices, saying that it was "for the judges collectively, as a collegiate body, to decide whether or not to modify general practices" and to modify by practice directions.

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Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Cole & Cole, Oxford; Harvey Ingram Owsen, Leicester.

Paint spraying part of 'car repairs'

Bridgegrove Ltd v Smith and Another

The term "car repairs" included work to car bodies and paint spraying activities.

The Court of Appeal Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery so held on March 20 when dismissing an appeal by a landlord, Bridgegrove Ltd, from a judgment by Judge Graham, QC, in Shore-ditch County Court in which the upheld a claim by tenants, Mr

Richard Smith and Mr Roy Smith, that premises that were unfit for paint spraying had been negligently misrepresented by the landlord as being suitable for a car repair business.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the tenants, operating a car repair business from premises at 112 Kingsland High Street, Hackney, London, had received complaints from occupiers of neighbouring premises relating to the fumes from paint spraying.

They had had to cease their activities inside the premises.

The judge was correct to hold that the tenants had entered into a lease for the premises in reliance on a negligent misstatement by the landlord that the premises were "ideally suitable for any storage workshop use and car repairs."

The term "car repairs" referred to repairs to the body of a car as well as to its mechanical parts and included spraying car bodies with paint.

Scots Law Report April 22 1997 Outer House

Pursuer must specify provision for removing smoke from office

Rae (Agnes) v Glasgow City Council and Another

Before Lord Bonomy
(Judgment March 7)

Section 7 of the Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act 1933 was plainly directed at the mischief of foul air in the atmosphere of the workplace. Cigarette smoke which fouled the atmosphere clearly fell within that mischief.

The obligation in section 7 was not to extract impurities, it was to provide ventilation by the circulation of adequate supplies of air. The rate at which the air should be freshened up depended upon the extent to which it was fouled but because the obligation was not to remove impurities, it was not appropriate for the pursuer to rely on a bald statement of the statutory obligation without specifying what would have made to the inhalation of impurities from smoke by the pursuer.

Lord Bonomy, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held in dismissing an action of damages for personal injury brought by Agnes Rae against Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Joint Police Board.

Mr Neil Bradford, QC, for the pursuer; Mrs Anne Paton, QC and Miss Jane Paterson for the defenders.

LORD BONOMY said that the pursuer sued for damages for illness caused by her passive exposure to cigarette smoke at work between 1979 and 1994. She averred that she had never smoked.

She had been employed by the defenders' statutory predecessors as a word processor operator in various small offices. She averred that others working beside her and visiting or passing through left cigarette smoke to be given off.

Towards the end of her employment, some steps which she averred were inadequate, had been taken to try to stop smoking at her place of work. The pursuer's case was pleaded at both common law and in terms of section 7 of the 1933 Act.

The pursuer's case was that, throughout her employment, no proper and efficient ventilation had been provided for her workplace, no exhaust appliances had been provided to extract smoke, and no provision had been made for securing and maintaining the ventilation of her workplace by the circulation of adequate supplies of fresh or artificially purified air.

She also averred that no warning had been given to her of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.

For the defenders, the fundamental submission had been that the common law case that it was well known within industry and by local authorities that the inhalation of cigarette and pipe smoke carried with it a risk of injury or disease was a bare assertion without support in the pleadings.

The pursuer was bound to specify circumstances from which the court could draw the inference that there was a foreseeable risk of illness against which the defenders should have taken precautions.

The pleadings did not contain specification of such circumstances and there was no attempt to rely on the practice of other authorities. The case depended upon the risk of disease being material which the defenders ought to have known about and taken reasonable care to protect the pursuer from.

His Lordship considered that the risk and the materiality thereof were adequately pleaded as "a risk of injury or disease to the lungs or respiratory system"; but that it could not be concluded from the pleadings that the defenders knew or ought to have known of those risks arising from passive smoking.

There were no averments of when the risks of passive smoking had been discovered or when and by what means the defenders ought to have known of it. While the pursuer had pleaded details of hazardous documents pointing out the materiality of the risk or of how the terms of those documents should have come to the attention of the defenders.

Accordingly the common law case failed.

The statutory case consisted of quotation of section 7 of the 1933 Act, followed by a bald statement that the defenders had failed to comply with their duties under that section.

His Lordship had been referred to authorities decided under section 4 of the Factories Act 1937. However those fell to be distinguished, as the reference to "artificially purified air" in section 7 of the 1933 Act distinguished it from the earlier provision.

In the circumstances, his Lordship could see no reason why the words of section 7 should not be given their ordinary meaning. It followed that it might be appropriate to contend for ventilation of the workplace by means of mechanical circulation of the air.

M. T. M. Construction Ltd v William Reid Engineering Ltd

Before Lord Abernethy
(Judgment January 28)

Where a contractor engaged a subcontractor to undertake works which necessitated an inherently dangerous operation and the subcontractor engaged a sub-subcontractor to undertake that part of the works that was inherently dangerous, the subcontractor was not liable to the principal contractor for the negligence of the sub-subcontractor in that case the principle that a person employing an independent contractor to undertake inherently dangerous works was responsible for the contractor's negligence rendered the principal contractor himself liable and hence barred him from invoking the same principle against his subcontractor.

Lord Abernethy,

CYCLING

Obree rides into row over rules

BY PETER BRYAN

GRAEME OBREE, twice the world 4,000 metres pursuit champion and the present British 25-mile champion, has had his entry rejected for the national ten-mile time-trial championship next month. Obree, from Scotland, is the British record-holder for the distance.

He claims that his entry has been refused after a series of misunderstandings and errors by officials of the Road Time Trials Council (RTTC). The RTTC, which controls time-trials in England and Wales, also allows members of clubs affiliated to the Scottish Cycling Union to compete in events south of the border.

Obree claimed yesterday

January 1, 1996. I met that by racing last Saturday in Scotland with a winning time of 20 minutes 43 seconds."

However, his effort was to prove in vain. Although the closing date for entries for the ten-mile race was incorrectly listed as April 22 in a calendar printed in the RTTC handbook, the correct date of April 15 was given elsewhere in the handbook.

Obree appealed at the weekend to Phil Heaton, the RTTC national secretary, who confirmed that his entry had not been accepted. Yesterday, Heaton admitted that one reference in the RTTC handbook printed the wrong closing date, adding that the championship rules published elsewhere in the book were quite clear.

"The organiser had received the maximum of 120 riders by the official closing date of April 15 and all of them qualified," Heaton said. "In a non-championship event, reserves may be allowed but that is not permitted for championships."

Obree, Britain's main hope for a medal in the world track championships in Australia in August, was furious. "I have had two of my riding positions banned by the International Cycling Union despite worldwide support and I now find that, on what appears to me to be a technicality, I am receiving similar treatment from the home body."

"I had hoped the championship would be the start of a successful comeback season after a series of illnesses last year that affected my performance in the Atlanta Olympics. It's so disheartening and, today at least, I wonder whether it might be worth trying to take legal action against the RTTC."

This year's championship—if it included Obree—would be one of the biggest attractions of the season. Entrants include Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner in 1988, and Rob Hayles, the winner last year.



Obree: furious

that he was originally told he did not need a qualifying time for the ten-mile championship near Barton-upon-Humber on May 11, as he was the 1996 25-mile champion.

"The closing date for entries for the trial is published in this year's RTTC handbook as April 22, and my entry was sent off in good time," Obree said. "I then learnt from the organiser that I needed to be a member of a Scottish club to be considered, as I only hold a British Cycling Federation Racing licence, which is recognised internationally. So I joined the Shetland Wheelers."

"The next problem was to learn that I needed to have a qualifying time achieved since

Nicholls prefers deeds to words

Tony Hoare talks to an outstanding speedway rider who is determined to make up for last year's disappointment

Scott Nicholls will be keeping his feet on the ground tomorrow night, when he lines up in the British under-21 speedway championship final in Norfolk. It will make a pleasant change from his experience in the world final of the competition last year.

Nicholls, 19, confounded medical opinion by finishing fourth in the final, despite riding with four broken toes in his left foot in a sport that requires riders to drag their left boot on the floor as they take corners. The meeting at King's Lynn tomorrow will bring together Britain's leading 16 riders under the age of 21, with the top eight qualifying for the world championship stages.

They are all hoping to follow in the footsteps of past winners Joe Screen, who was victorious in 1993, and Chris Lewis, the 1990 champion, by taking the world under-21 title in the final at Mseno, in the Czech Republic, in August.

Nicholls, who rides for Ipswich, is the youngest rider competing in the newly launched Elite League and has belied his years to produce solid scores in the world's toughest league competition. He is widely regarded as the most promising prospect in England, but superstitious Nicholls shuns such talk.

"I don't like to say too much about what might happen because that guarantees things will go the other way," he said. "I always psyche myself up to do well, but I just don't tell anyone else. Whenever anyone asks me how I'm going to do, I just say I'm going to do my best."

Nicholls, a former British schoolboy champion at speedway's sister sport, grasstrack, is aiming to make up for a mistake in the British final last year which cost him the title.

In his final ride, after four immaculate victories, he trailed in third, believing Stuart Robson, who was second, would overtake the leader, Savalas Clouting. That would have given Nicholls the title, but Clouting kept his lead and



Nicholls has belied his years to excel in the world's toughest league

then beat Nicholls in a deciding run-off.

"I think I have learnt from that," Nicholls said. "I went into the race with the wrong things in my head and it bugged me. Hopefully, now I will pick up on that."

Despite his lack of outward displays of confidence, Nicholls knows he is a talent-

ed rider and only took up the sport professionally after careful consideration. "I've always wanted to be a speedway rider, but I went through a phase when I was about 15 when I had my doubts about going into it properly," he said.

"I wanted to be an accountant. I was thinking about finishing speedway and getting a proper job, but I'm glad I didn't now."

"I enjoy the sport and I want to be the best at it. It must be a big buzz for Billy Hamill [the world senior champion] to say to himself

that he is the best in the world."

The senior title will have to wait, but the junior version is a realistic target. "That would be the ultimate for me. Last year, I doubted myself a little bit but finished fourth. Now I know I'm quite good and should be able to do well."

It is as if he feels he has opened up too much by raising his chances when he adds: "I'm not confident, but I have learnt a little bit, so I'm all-out to win." The modest racer's final words are appropriately non-committal: "We'll see what happens."

RUGBY UNION

Popplewell called to account for punching

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NICK POPPLEWELL, the Newcastle and Ireland prop, will appear before a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel next Monday to answer accusations of bringing the game into disrepute. It will be the fourth time that the panel has met since the union revised its disciplinary procedure, and this hearing may well prove the most strongly contested.

The charge arises from the Courage Clubs Championship second division meeting between Bedford and Newcastle on April 5, when Popplewell punched Scott Murray, the Bedford lock, necessitating his replacement and two visits to hospital before Murray could be assured that there was no permanent damage to one eye.

The incident was seen by a touch judge and Popplewell was penalised and shown a yellow card. Subsequently, Newcastle fined the player an unspecified amount but, after reviewing a video of the match, Roy Manock, the RFU disciplinary officer, decided that Popplewell, 33, should appear before a three-man panel at Darlington to determine whether a further penalty should be imposed.

Newcastle are likely to mount a strong defence of their player, who has already been punished on and off the pitch. However, a basic tenet of the RFU procedures, which come into effect when a player has been cited for foul play, when he has been sent off or when he faces a disrepute charge, is that clubs should not effectively "buy" freedom for their players by the imposition of a fine.

Had Popplewell been sent off, he would have been suspended for 30 days. After listening to Popplewell and any character witnesses he chooses to bring, the panel may yet impose a suspension or issue a reprimand.

During the past year, disciplinary panels have suspended Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, for six months for pushing Steve Lander, the match referee, at the end of the Pilkington Cup final last season and Phil Adams, the Bristol lock, for 60 days after his club fined him for foul play. Charles Cusani, the Orrell lock, was reprimanded for accumulating five yellow warning cards, and another such case awaits the panel's attention.

IN BRIEF

Illingworth sidelined by shoulder injury

RICHARD Illingworth, the Worcestershire left-arm spinner, will miss the first month of the cricket season after a freak accident in a Bradford League match. Illingworth dislocated a shoulder while playing for Windhill.

David Leatherdale, his Worcestershire team-mate, who was batting at the time for Farsley, said: "He fell awkwardly and was obviously in a lot of pain."

Scan for Hunte

Rugby league: St Helens will send their centre, Alan Hunte, for a hospital scan to determine the extent of the hamstring injury that threatens to rule him out of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final, against Bradford Bulls, at Wembley on Saturday week.

Drugs ban

Ski jumping: Andreas Goldberger was suspended by the Austrian Ski Federation in Vienna yesterday after his admission that he once took cocaine. Peter Schroecksnadel, president of the federation, said that the suspension would stay in effect until the disciplinary committee of his organisation reaches a decision on how to react.

Lehman on top

Golf: Tom Lehman, the Open champion, yesterday replaced Greg Norman at the top of the world rankings. Tiger Woods lies fifth. Lehman finished joint fourth in the MCI Classic, which was won by Nick Price, of Zimbabwe.

Wales win three

Lawn tennis: The Wales women's team has beaten Western Australia 18-0, 22-2 and 15-0 in three warm-up games in Perth before the World Cup in Tokyo on Sunday.

Cooke to retire

Table tennis: Alan Cooke, the England No 3 and losing finalist on Sunday in the Commonwealth championships, is about to retire.

Costa's title

Tennis: Albert Costa, beat his fellow Spaniard, Albert Portas, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 to win the Barcelona Open yesterday.

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

FASHION

Belt up: Grace Bradberry looks at the belted coat as a new look for summer.

FOOTBALL

Cup Fever. Can Chesterfield overcome troubled Middlesbrough and go all the way to Wembley?

ARTS

Where now for the Opera House? An interview with Genista McIntosh, new Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House.

STYLE

How to get A Look.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

If you have four of a side suit in your hand with three in dummy, it is not obvious that there is a ruffing possibility. Good players, however, are on the lookout for it. An example:

Dealer South	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠AK3 ♥Q75 ♦10764 ♣963	♠J ♥109532 ♦K9532 ♣Q102	

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of diamonds

South opened One Spade, North raised to Two Spades and South went on to Four Spades. After winning the diamond lead, declarer crossed to dummy with a spade and played a heart to the jack and king. West switched to a club. How should declarer play?

The problem with simply drawing trumps is that, if they are 4-1, and the hearts are not 3-3, declarer will make only four spades and two hearts to go with his three minor-suit winners. Correct technique after winning the club is to continue with a heart to the queen, and another heart. If East ruffs, he is ruffing a loser, and declarer may subsequently be able to discard a club from dummy on the ace of hearts, and then take a club ruff.

If West ruffs the third heart,

the trick comes back, as declarer can ruff the fourth heart in dummy. And when West has four trumps that is the only way to make the contract. If West ruffs in on the fourth round, dummy overruffs, otherwise the small heart can be ruffed low. Thus declarer makes five tricks in spades, one high heart and one heart ruff, and three in the minors.

The annual marathon at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club was a five-session (165 boards) pairs event, played from noon on Saturday to noon on Sunday, with half-hour breaks between sessions. RESULTS: 1. P Gwynne, W Kasper and M Somerville (58.97 per cent), 2. Jason and Justin Hackett (58.43 per cent), 3. M Courtney and U Dumas (56.16 per cent).

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer win

On May 3 in New York, Garry Kasparov commences his six-game challenge against IBM's upgraded Deep Blue computer. IBM scientists are now predicting that their much-improved machine brain, which can now see 1,000 million different chess positions every second, will defeat the human world champion.

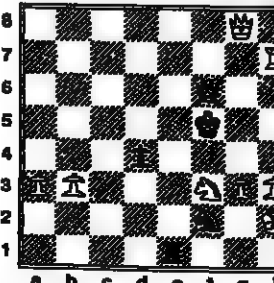
The match last year began sensationally, when Kasparov threw caution to the winds and sacrificed material in an effort to land a death blow on the white king. Sadly, complicated tactics and what computers handle best and all of Kasparov's ingenious attacking plays were thwarted by Deep Blue's merciless calculation.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
Philadelphia 1996

Shedden Defence	
1 e4	c5
2 e5	d5
3 exd5	Qxd5
4 e4	Nf6
5 Nf3	Bg4
6 Be2	e6
7 N3	Bh5
8 O-O	Nc8
9 Be3	Qc6
10 cxd4	Bd4
11 a3	Ba5
12 Nc3	Qd6
13 Nb5	Qe7
14 Ne5	Bxe2
15 Qxe2	O-O
16 Rac1	Rac8
17 Bg5	Bb6
18 Bxd6	gxd6
19 Nc4	Rf8
20 Nxb6	axb6
21 Rfd1	h5
22 Qe3	Qf6

23 d5	Rcd5
24 Rcd5	exd5
25 d5	Kf8
26 Qxb6	Rf8
27 Qe5	d4
28 Nd6	Nd5
29 Nxb7	Nb5
30 Qd5	h3
31 g3	Nc3
32 Rf7	Re8
33 Nd8	Re1+
34 Kf2	Nd2
35 Nxf7+	Kg7
36 Ng5+	Kf6
37 Rxf7	Kg5
38 Qc6+	Kf5
39 Nc3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



This game, a first in the history of chess, was the first occasion that a human world champion had been beaten by a computer under formal and classic tournament conditions.

Chinese chess

The Bank of China Cup to determine the UK champion in the Chinese style of chess (Xiangqi), was played over the weekend.

LEADING RESULTS: 1. Chuang Wenming; 2. Chen Fazio; 3. Wang Shunli

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RANDY
a. A Scholar at St John's
b. A tricycle
c. To canvass

RISTLE
a. Gristle
b. To build a bonfire
c. A Hebridean plough

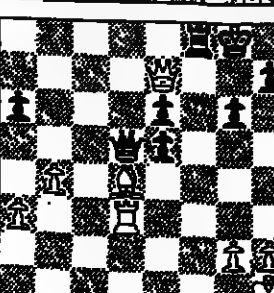
PRAMNIAN
a. Ambulatory
b. Sticky wine
c. A trochaic metre
RUMBO
a. Strong punch
b. A card game
c. Christmas cake

Answers on page 52

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Tirard Rotstein, Cannes 1997. ere Black could play 1... exd4 but White would still be in the game. Instead, he found something much stronger. Can you spot his winning continuation?



Solution on page 52

Robson considers options before Van Gaal moves in



Robson: can cash in on his success

THE worst-kept secret in football's garrulous world is now admitted: Bobby Robson's job as coach to Barcelona is to be handed to Louis van Gaal just as soon as the Dutchman finishes his tenure with Ajax at the end of this season.

Robson should care. This is the 47th year in which he has committed himself body and soul to football and he is virtually guaranteed higher earnings than ever — certainly in many multiples above the £4.50 per week of his apprenticeship down the pit, where his father, Philip, missed only one shift in 51 years.

Indeed, Robson could yet finish his season with Barcelona by winning the Spanish league, the Spanish Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup. He probably has to settle for second to Real Madrid in the league, but that is a miserable effort.

ball is politics and Barcelona represent the politics of Catalan separatist ideals.

He knew all of this when he took the challenge, he knew it when he enlisted Ronaldo, the most coveted player in the world, to join him in Spain, yet, last week, as Ronaldo was using the predatory presence of Sergio Cragnotti, the president of Lazio, of Rome, to bump up his Barcelona salary to £5 million net per year, Robson was being crassly abused by a Madrid journalist. "Robson is the worst coach in the world," the malign fellow wrote.


Again, Robson should care. Also in Barcelona, according to Everton, was Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman. Coming from Merseyside, from the place where the Beatles composed that song *When I'm 64*, Johnson was offering another

son to start rebuilding Everton. This time, it appears, the homecoming, if Robson is ready for it, would be to a united boardroom, without the split that became evident when Newcastle United beckoned Robson in the winter.

But he may not come. Reportedly, he has the option, any time he wants it, of a return to the sunnier clime of Oporto, where his team was an unequivocal winner. And who could blame Jose Luis Núñez, the Barcelona president, for wanting Robson to stay, in a capacity of his choice other than team coach?

Núñez is the most cunning of presidents in a club built on politics, but even he has warmed to Robson's character, to his enduring enthusiasm, integrity and the judgment that brought Ronaldo to the Nou Camp.

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

said last weekend, "depends only on the man himself. It is his decision."

Possibly so, but Barcelona had then lost 3-1 to lowly Real

Barcelona had beaten Athletic Bilbao 2-0. Robson was told by the press that Nőñez had finally admitted Van Gaal was to join Barcelona. Robson blinked, drew on his long experience and responded: "The club are designing a new structure for the future and I am involved in these decisions."

So, Everton wait, FC Porto hover and Barcelona expect a cup or two before decisions are final. Van Gaal, meanwhile, probably comes to the end of an era on Wednesday night. He has been a trainer at Ajax right through the system that produced the finest school professional football has known. That school is now ravaged annually by the departures of irreparable talents, migrating under the Bosman ruling to Italian clubs, even without recom-

In addition, half of Van Gaal's stars were grounded by long-term injuries this season ... yet still the club reached the European Cup semi-final, where it had the misfortune to be overrun in the first leg in Amsterdam by unquestionably the best side in Europe, Juventus.

Unless there is the season's biggest surprise in store for the return leg in Turin, this is the end of the road for Van Gaal and Ajax. Even the adulteration of the Champions' League, allowing, from next season, not only the champions but the runners-up of five favoured nations into the most lucrative of tournaments, will not benefit Ajax.

How anomalous it is to continue with the description "champions". Uefa, European football's governing body, confesses that the change in

rather than strictly meritocratic, base. The countries that will each have two teams in the event next autumn – Italy, Spain, England, France and Germany – happen to provide 90 per cent of UEFA's income. This money, £12 million over the 1996-97 campaign, represents 31 per cent of the £38m that the 1994 World Cup finals achieved and 136 per cent more than the European championship last year brought in.

Now that Manchester United are probable winners of the FA Carling Premiership, there will be only two English teams in the European Cup. Had United finished third in the league and won the cup, then England would have had three entries, but both are unlikely – just as unlikely as Bobby Robson ever settling again for his pit wage of £4.50


FOOTBALL

Wembley key within reach for Juninho

BY PETER BALL

MIDDLESBROUGH have to pick themselves up and go again after their bitter disappointments of last week. Tonight they return to Hillsborough, the scene of their defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup final, for their FA Cup semi-final replay against Chesterfield.

The first contest had enough excitement for half a dozen games. To expect a repeat is perhaps asking too much, but between them Middlesbrough's leg-weary maestros and Chesterfield's romantic outsiders from the Nationwide League second division seem certain to produce more drama.



FA CUP

MIDDLEBROUGH (probable), B Roberts — N Co, N Pearson, D Whyte, V Kinder — C Higgins, P Stamp, R Mustoe — Juninho — F Reinshull, M Beck.

CHESTERFIELD (probable), W Milner — J Hewitt, M Williams, S Dyche, M Jules — T Curtis, P Holland, C Perkins — K Davies, A Morris, J Howard.

Referee: D Gray.

The match will be shown live on BBC Sport (starting at 7pm) and highlights will be on Sky Sports at 10pm. Commentary will also be on Radio 5 Live.

A piece of footballing history, as well as a place at Wembley, is within reach for both teams. If Middlebrough win, it will be their first FA Cup Final in their 120 years; if Chesterfield triumph, it will be even more momentous as they would become the first club from their level to reach a Cup Final.

But for Middlebrough, the outcome may have even more importance. Victory tonight should provide the impetus for a successful relegation struggle; another failure after the frustration of having both this tie and the Coca-Cola Cup snatched from them in the dying minutes of extra time makes it hard to see how they can recover physically and mentally for the battle ahead.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, remains professionally optimistic and he was quick to reject the suggestion of Ron Atkinson, his former manager, that his team will be relegated. "Yes, we have got a battle, but we only need a

couple of wins to make us safe," Robson said.

"This is a massive game for us. A win will give the players a great boost for the run-in to the season and give us our confidence back. A win will set us up and then, if we get something at Spurs on Thursday, we will have an eight-day rest."

But Middlesbrough go into the game without a win in six games and, although in extra time they had the first match virtually won, they could easily have been knocked out in normal time had not David Elleray, the referee, ignored his assistant, and controversially dis-

lowed a Chesterfield goal.

"Chesterfield were not defensive, unlike Leicester," Robson added, "they went for the game. It was end to end and John Duncan [the Chesterfield manager] must be given credit for that."

"But I've looked at the video and the stats since. We had twice as many chances with ten men and their goalkeeper was the man of the match."

Duncan said: "A lot of people think our chance has gone. We've done a lot of things over the last few years that a lot of people didn't think possible - not just the Cup run."

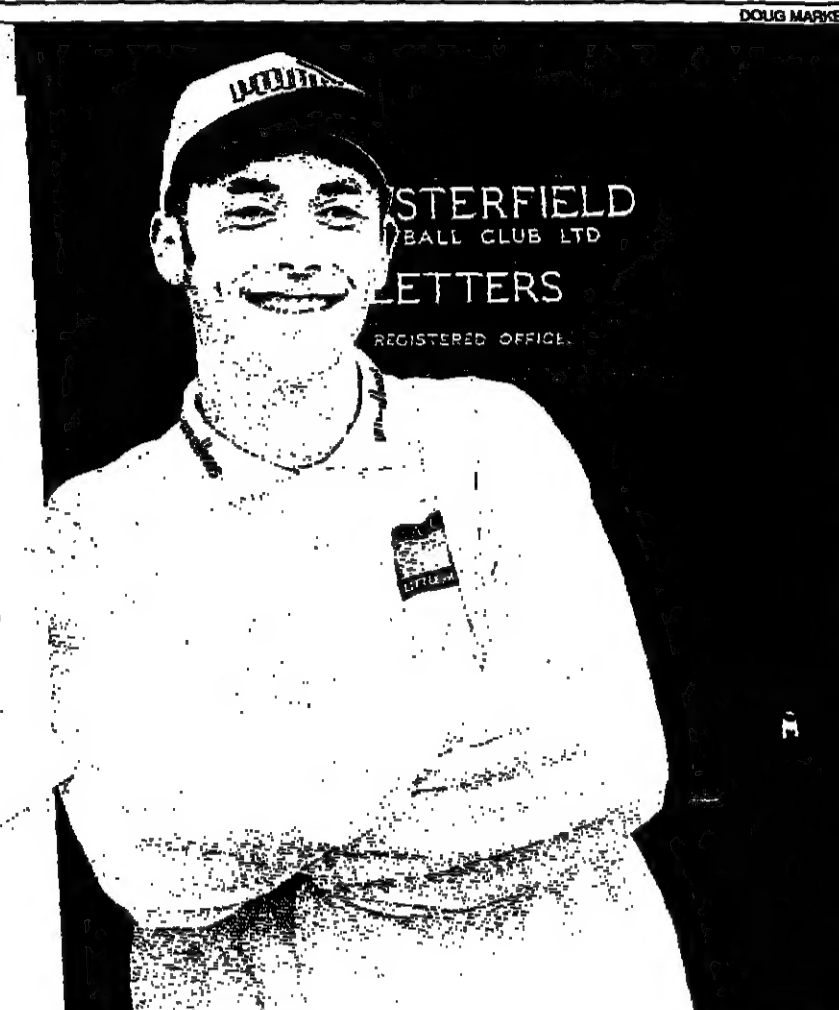
There is little doubt that Chesterfield have the neutral vote. Unlike the other clubs, they will *never* be

The task is again likely to be given to Mark Jules, who at Old Trafford found the task the toughest of his career. "I've never marked anyone as good as him before," he said. "He had everything — a touch, good vision, pace and stamina. He's certainly the best player I've ever seen."

The presence of Juninho and Ravanelli, if he is in the mood, should see Middlesbrough through, but Chesterfield's spirit is such that it is hard to bet against them. The Derbyshire club awaits a test this morning on the thigh injury sustained by Billy Mercer. Their goalkeeper, and that as much as anything might determine the

Middlesbrough are more worried about tired limbs than injuries. Mark Schwarzer is cup-tied, leaving Ben Roberts to hold the fort in goal, and Festa and Fleming are doubtful, but the big guns are all present.

F. A. CUP TICKETS



Hewitt is enjoying his new-found celebrity as the home-town boy made good as Chesterfield gets ready for the semi-final replay

Chesterfield salutes its local hero

For 28 years, Jamie Hewitt passed unrecognised through the streets of Chesterfield. From the formative days, when his mother pushed him around the market square in a pram, through his childhood and beyond 400 appearances for the football club, Hewitt remained anonymous. Then he happened to score a goal.

To say that life has changed in the nine days since his equaliser in the 119th minute of the FA Cup semi-final against Middlesbrough is an understatement. He has conducted more interviews and posed for more photographs than in the previous 12 years of his career put together. He has been on *Football Focus* and teamed up with Chris Evans on *TFI Friday*. In that same market-squand, people line up to shake his hand.

"Place at our level wonder what it must be like to be Giggs or Fowler, under scrutiny all of the time. I am beginning to get an idea," Hewitt said. "To a certain extent, I am enjoying the experience. If you go into football, you want to be in the limelight because it means you have been successful, but it is strange to think that a single goal can make so much difference."

By David Goodwin, Hewitt

Richard Hobson finds Jamie Hewitt relishing the next stage of his unlikely FA Cup adventure

admits that he would be on the other side of the handshakes. He is the archetypal local boy made good. Les, his father, a part-time player with the club in 1948, took him to Salford for the first time as a six-year-old, and when Jamie left the main stand, it was only to join his schoolfriends on the terraces.

"I wanted to go to the away games as well, but hooliganism was around at the time and my mum and dad were not very keen," he said. "Until I was taken on as a trainee at 16, my happiest memory was watching my Glasgow Rangers 3-0 in the Anglo-Scottish Cup semi-final in 1981. Ernie Moss

Burnden Park in the fourth round, it has been celebrated as joyously as if it were the last.

More than 8,000 people were prepared to sleep rough to buy a ticket for the replay at Hillsborough tonight. The sale was brought forward on police advice and all 18,500 were snapped up within six hours. John Duncan, the manager, said: "To have affected so many people has to be the highlight of the run. This area has had tough times and people here have worked hard to make ends meet. They have had nothing to cheer for a long, long time. That was what made the players so proud."

Just a long throw from Salford

Staveley is funny, but Chesterfield has been pretty near useless in the FA Cup. We used to joke about it back then, every time a Cup game was due: getting to the third round would be an achievement."

Indeed, Chesterfield had not progressed beyond the fifth round until this season, a fact that helps to explain why each success since the *winners over Bolton Wanderers at*

stands the Derbyshire headquarters of the National Union of Mineworkers. From the outside there is little sign of life, yet four years on from the final pit closure in the area, officials are still dealing with claims for compensation for illness and injury. The pit near Staveley, where Hewitt's grandfather, Robert, worked either side of the First World War, is now the site of a leisure park.

No side from what used to be the third division has reached the final. York City, in 1955, and Norwich City, four years later, took their semi-final opponents to a replay. Yet Middlesbrough are vulnerable. They have lost twice since the first tie at Old Trafford and are in a desperate plight near the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, while Chesterfield sit comfortably in the middle of the Nationwide League second division.

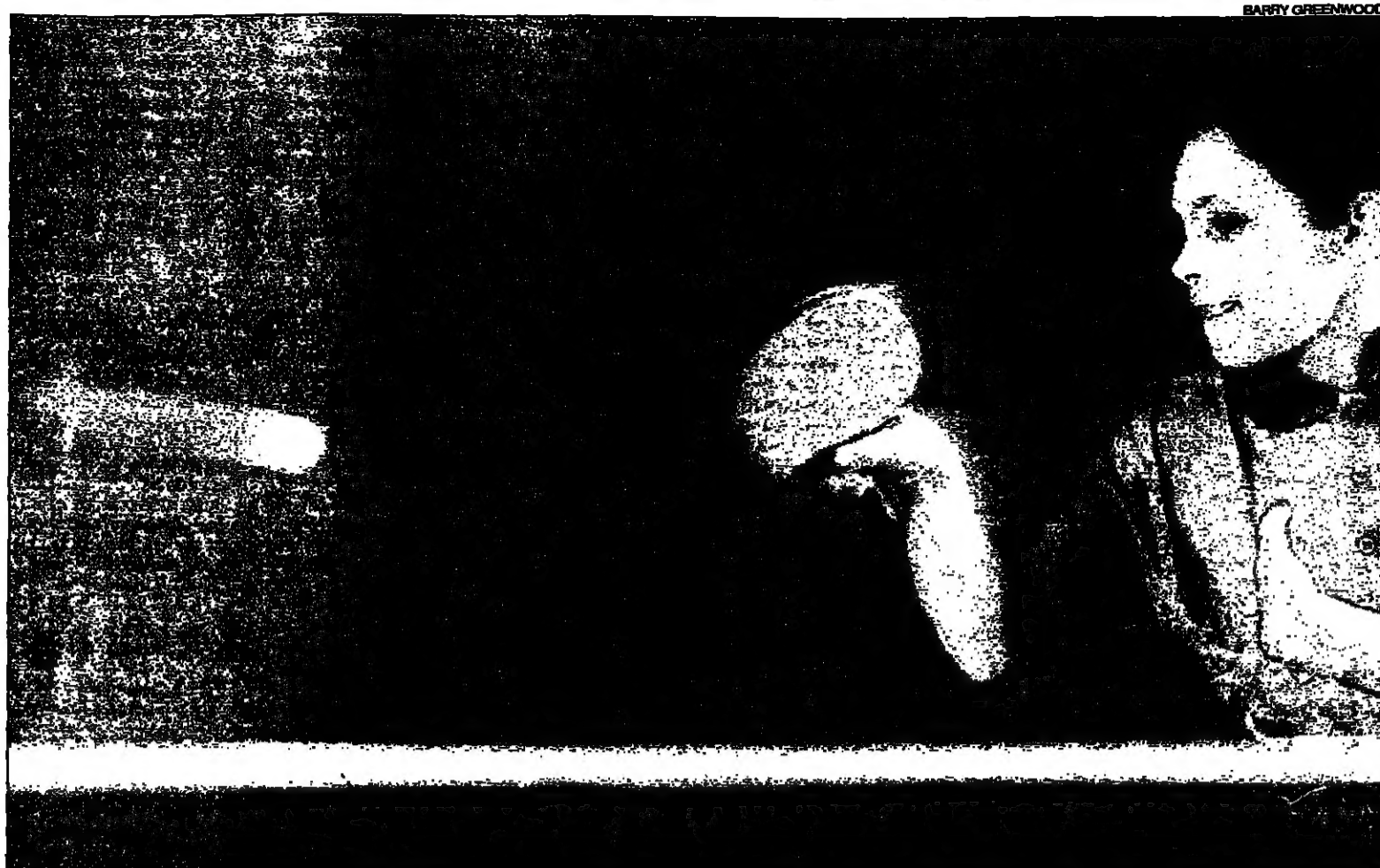
Hewitt, pleased that his goal appeared better on television than he realised at the time, said: "We did a lot of chasing at Old Trafford. We were on our knees at the end, but Juninho hardly appeared to breathe during the game. I do not think fitness will be an issue. We will be fit and ready to go the way we got our men behind the play and disturb them with long balls."

The draw allowed the blue and white balloons to stay in the shop fronts a little longer. Even the crooked spire of St Mary and All Saints church is playing second fiddle. "It seems as though every article ever written, every bit of film ever made about Chesterfield mentions the balloons. It's a bit of a cliché, but on the map and, to be honest, there has not been a lot else here." As Kenneth Wolstenholme might say, there is now.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS WALNUT, Calif. MIL SAC relay meeting, featured results: US relay team 10:00.1; M. M. M. 9:59.4; 400m 1:00.0; 800m 2:00.0; 1600m 4:00.0; 3200m 8:00.0; 6400m 16:00.0; 12800m 32:00.0; 25600m 64:00.0; 51200m 128:00.0; 102400m 256:00.0; 204800m 512:00.0; 409600m 1024:00.0; 819200m 2048:00.0; 1638400m 4096:00.0; 3276800m 8192:00.0; 6553600m 16384:00.0; 13107200m 32768:00.0; 26214400m 65536:00.0; 52428800m 131072:00.0; 104857600m 262144:00.0; 209715200m 524288:00.0; 419430400m 1048576:00.0; 838860800m 2097152:00.0; 1677721600m 4194304:00.0; 3355443200m 8388608:00.0; 6710886400m 16777216:00.0; 13421772800m 33554432:00.0; 26843545600m 67108864:00.0; 53687091200m 134217728:00.0; 107374182400m 268435456:00.0; 214748364800m 536870912:00.0; 429496729600m 1073741824:00.0; 858993459200m 2147483648:00.0; 1717986918400m 4294967296:00.0; 3435973836800m 8589934592:00.0; 6871947673600m 17179869184:00.0; 13743895347200m 34359738368:00.0; 27487790694400m 68719476736:00.0; 54975581388800m 137438953472:00.0; 109951162777600m 274877906944:00.0; 219902325555200m 549755813888:00.0; 439804651110400m 1099511627776:00.0; 879609302220800m 2199023255552:00.0; 1759218604441600m 4398046511104:00.0; 3518437208883200m 8796093022208:00.0; 7036874417766400m 17592186044416:00.0; 14073748835532800m 35184372088832:00.0; 28147497671065600m 70368744177664:00.0; 56294995342131200m 140737488355328:00.0; 112589990684262400m 281474976710656:00.0; 225179981368524800m 562949953421312:00.0; 450359962737049600m 1125899906842624:00.0; 900719925474099200m 2251799813685248:00.0; 1801439850948198400m 4503599627370496:00.0; 3602879701896396800m 9007199254740992:00.0; 7205759403792793600m 18014398509481984:00.0; 14411518807585587200m 36028797018963968:00.0; 28823037615171174400m 72057594037927936:00.0; 57646075230342348800m 144115188075855872:00.0; 115292150460684697600m 288230376151711744:00.0; 230584300921369395200m 576460752303423488:00.0; 461168601842738790400m 1152921504606846976:00.0; 922337203685477580800m 2305843009213693952:00.0; 1844674407370955161600m 4611686018427387904:00.0; 3689348814741910323200m 9223372036854775808:00.0; 7378697629483820646400m 18446744073709551616:00.0; 14757395259367641292800m 36893488147419103232:00.0; 29514790518735282585600m 73786976294838206464:00.0; 59029581037470565171200m 147573952593676412928:00.0; 118059162074941130342400m 295147905187352825856:00.0; 236118324149882260684800m 590295810374705651712:00.0; 472236648299764521369600m 1180591620749411303424:00.0; 944473296599529042739200m 2361183241498822606848:00.0; 1888946593198058085478400m 4722366482997645213696:00.0; 3777893186396116170956800m 9444732965995290427392:00.0; 7555786372792232341913600m 18889465931980580854784:00.0; 15111572745584464823827200m 37778931863961161709568:00.0; 30223145491168929647654400m 75557863727922323419136:00.0; 60446290982337859295308800m 151115727455844648238272:00.0; 120892581964675718589067200m 302231454911689296476544:00.0; 241785163929351437178134400m 604462909823378592953088:00.0; 483570327858702874356268800m 1208925819646757185890672:00.0; 967140655717405748712537600m 2417851639293514371781344:00.0; 19342813114354114954251174400m 4835703278587028743562688:00.0; 38685626228708229908502348800m 9671406557174057487125376:00.0; 77371252457416459817004697600m 193428131143541149542511744:00.0; 154742504914829137634009395200m 386856262287082299085023488:00.0; 309485009829658275268018780400m 773712524574164598170046976:00.0; 618970019659316550536036760800m 1547425049148291376340093952:00.0; 1237940039318631101070721335361600m 3094850098296582752680187804:00.0; 247588007863726220214042666723200m 6189700196593165505360367608:00.0; 495176015727452440428089333446400m 12379400393186311010707213353616:00.0; 990352031454904880856178666892800m 2475880078637262202140426667232:00.0; 19807040629098097617123537737753600m 4951760157274524404280893334464:00.0; 39614081258196195234247075475507200m 9903520314549048808561786668928:00.0; 79228162516392390468494150951014400m 198070406290980976171235377377536:00.0; 15845625072678091693698830190228800m 39614081

Prodigy takes world stage without batting an eyelid



The prodigious skills that Katy inherited from her parents have made her the youngest player competing at the world championships in Manchester

Parker bounces to prominence

Just for a moment, a flicker of anxiety crossed the brow of the little girl with the hazel eyes and the freckles. "Mum, I might be the worst player there," she said. Then, content with her mother's reassurance, she returned to her doodling and her gentle contemplation of what all the fuss was about.

Katy Parker has no idea at all, which is how it should be. When the phone rang, confirming her selection for the world table tennis championships in Manchester, the news was so earth-shattering that she could not quite remember her reaction. "I thought it meant I was in the juniors," she said, the Lancastrian accent surprisingly broad.

And, when she knew it was the seniors and that, at 12 years and 144 days, she would be the youngest competitor from the 108 nations, almost certainly the youngest in her sport to be selected for the world championships, maybe to play in any world championships, what then? A skipped heartbeat, a joyous leap? "Nothing really," Boyzone breaking up or Steve McManaman getting married, now that would be a different matter.

At Kibham Grammar School, in Preston, there is a notice-board for the school's international. Two junior England rugby players are featured, but not Katy Parker. The school has asked for a photo, but Katy has hardly rushed to cash in on her celebrity.

"If I have to do it, I will," she said. "But I'd prefer not to. Only one of my friends really knows about my table tennis. I never really tell them." A cool cookie, Miss Parker. Until there is an opponent three yards away and a table tennis net in between.

Then, wide-eyed innocence is transformed into a bobbing 52-stone bundle of energy. It is like switching on the light. One minute, a reluctant schoolgirl in a hopelessly big tracksuit — the smallest on offer in the England camp — the next, bounce, whack and woe betide the hapless opponent, which, for a few inglorious moments, happened to be me.

Only confusion, innate politeness wrestling with competitive instinct, prevented Katy from exposing my fumbling efforts. Her mother reckoned I would get about three points in a real match, none off her daughter's ser-

vice. Adult players who had first come across the bouncing nine-year-old playing in the Preston Town League had been similarly humbled.

"Sometimes they made excuses — the light wasn't right or the floor was slippery," she said. Mostly they just marvelled, consoled perhaps by the thought that genetic forces were working against them as well.

Katy's mother is better known as Jill Hamersley MBE, three times a Commonwealth champion, once a European champion, twice a European finalist. Her father, Don, was an England international and the manager of the England men's team during the Eighties, when they were among the best on offer in Europe. Katy has no

real appreciation of her pedigree. "I once took her into the main hall at the European championships in Birmingham," Parker said. "I told her that her mum had been the best player of the lot once. That made her stop and think for a moment." But the pair have been careful not to ram glory down their child's throat, nor to heap parental expectations onto such tender shoulders. Hamersley cannot watch her daughter anyway. She feels sick if she does.

"I've seen a lot of very promising 12-year-olds pushed too hard," she said. "This is an age when you do things for your parents. We want her to do it because she wants to do it."

At school, Katy has played most sports. Last week she tried high jump. That morning she had been up at 8.30 playing tennis. Parker said: "Sadly, I think she will have to take the decision quite soon. If she wants to become a top player, she will have to start specialising and thinking about the game a little more. I took her to a tournament recently. She had to play seven matches in a day."

"After the first she wanted to go and have a good natter with her mates. I took her to the last match and tried to prepare for the next. She couldn't understand what I was doing."

She still shakes her pretty brown hair at the indignity of it. That same tournament she went to three games in five of those seven matches and won them all, so what was the problem? "She's very good under pressure," Parker added. "She sticks at it because she's so determined." A quality inherited from her mother, whose defensive style put a premium on durability.

Despite the support, pitching a pre-teen into the mainstream of the world championships — which start on Thursday — is still a calculated gamble.

Katy will partner Michael Chan, 13, in the mixed doubles. She thinks they will lose. But what happens thereafter is more important. "I'm not worried that she will be frightened by it. She can cope," Hamersley said.

"I've said to her: 'You're there for experience and to watch the best players in the world.' And one thing is for certain. She may be the youngest, but she will not be the worst."

Andrew Longmore

Mostly, opponents just marvel at her

Only one of my friends knows about it

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A conscientious selection

Seven Wonders of the World
BBC2, 7.10pm

Introduced by Sue Lawley as "a brilliant and controversial neuroscientist", Steven Pinker brings the current series to a close. There will surely be another for the format in every bit as durable as that of its distant cousin, *Desert Island Discs*. Pinker, a mop-haired young professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, maintains the standard of the programme for fluent communicators who combine sagacity with passion. While milking the theme of his best-selling book, the ability of children to pick up language, he also enthuses about the bicycle and the camera and mounts a convincing rebuttal of John Stuart Mill's theory that, with only eight notes available, the world will eventually run out of music. He concludes with arguably the biggest wonder of all, the mystery of consciousness.

The Great Owl of the Mountains
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The Great Gray Owl of North America is a splendid subject for a wildlife film and the cameraman, Jeff Foote, does not miss a trick. At two feet in height the Great Gray is the largest American owl, and its remarkable hearing and eyesight help to make it a fearsome predator. Foote's film, shot over several months in the woodlands of the Rockies, follows the bird through its cycle of courtship, mating and bringing up its young. Not bothered to build its own nest, it takes one over from another bird. Some of the best footage is of the male scavenging for food. A favourite snack, which the owl swallows whole, is the gopher. The owlets are expected to leave their nests before they can fly, which means taking a hazardous plunge to ground 60 feet below.

Peak Practice
ITV, 9.00pm

The medical drama may have lost a bit of its bite recently (perhaps we have missed whingeing Will more than we thought) but it is determined to bow out of the current series in a blaze of incident. For a start there is the tantalising prospect of doctors Andrew (Gary Mavers) and Erica (Saskia Wickham) finally making an item. It is a busy



Mavers and Wickham (ITV, 9.00pm)

episode for Erica, for she is also setting out to find her real parents and, as if she had not got enough on her hands, her cottage goes up in flames. Meanwhile the other resident medic (Adrian Lukis) has to cope with the release from hospital of her mentally ill wife. Add to all this a pilot having a seizure in the sky and a rugby team having a pot at Andrew and it really is a case of blink and you miss it. There is no official word about a new series but viewing figures of 11 million-plus would seem to make it a near certainty.

Witness: Appointment With Doctor Death
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Joanna Head's film about Dr Jack Kevorkian is a model of how to deal head-on with the tricky subject while preserving scrupulous fairness and balance. Kevorkian is the small, wizened 68-year-old from Michigan who believes that people should be able to choose to die and has defied the law by assisting in nearly 50 suicides. Head gives us both sides of the argument. We eavesdrop on Kevorkian's consultations and hear from families grateful that he has helped their loved ones to put an end to years of pain and suffering. But Kevorkian is a controversial figure, hounded by the police and the target of demonstrators who dub him "Doctor Death". Ammunition for his critics is provided by a coroner who says that not all of the people Kevorkian helped to die were suffering from a disease. Peter Waymark

Spike Jones, The Man Who Murdered Music
Radio 2, 9.30pm

As Clive James proved with his discovery of the gloriously inept torch singer Margarita Pracatan, there is mileage in the dreadful if it is dreadful enough. But Spike Jones was different, because there was a cleverness to his slaughter of good songs that had one hoping it would soon be over, but on the other hand not yet. The Jones technique, explored here in the droll tones of Humphrey Lytton, was to start a rendition of, say, *The Blue Danube*, with a few faithful bars and then behave as if all the instruments had caught fire: tempos would double, horns blare and a curious instrument formed by strings attached to a lavatory seat would contribute. Serious musicians listening should plug in their sense of humour.

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greasing 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey, includes at 1.15pm the Net 2.00 Nick Campbell, includes the Alanom Lovelace 4.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 News 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Shillings 4.00 Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00pm Debbie Thompson 2.00 Ed Stewart 3.00 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman (9.15) 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Quincy Jones — The Duke and His Music 9.30 the Man Who Murdered Music. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allason 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview 8.00 The Mags 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Russco on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match introduced by Simon Mann. Plus news of all the day's other sport 10.00 Sport Relief 12.00 After Hours with Bill Baskin 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Most Deaf's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, includes Coleghean (Miss De plus en plus); Schubert (String Quartet in D); Ravel (Sonatine); Giovanni Gabrieli (Magnificat a 3); Delius (Brigg Fair) Bernstein (Chichester Psalms) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore, includes Dvorak (The Noonday Witch); Schubert (String Quartet Movement in C minor); Mozart (Piano Concerto in E flat, No 23 K271) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines, includes Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in C); Jean Hure (Cello Sonata in F); Gesualdo (Ottava del mio cor); Petrassi (Invenzione Concerto); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F); Rore (Missa, Luna Maggiori); Dvorak (Piano quartet in A, Op 81, No 2) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov. Stephen Hough introduces a rare recording of Rachmaninov's 18th-century Russian contemporary, Alexander Scriabin. Peter Donohoe looks at Rachmaninov's own approach to performing 1.00pm Il Giardino Armonico. The Italian period instrument ensemble performs Biber (Sonata 6 in B flat); Telemann (Trio Sonata in A minor for recorder, violin and continuo); Vivaldi (Trio Sonata in D minor) 2.15 Ian Bushnell introduces a programme recorded by the young Canadian baritone Russell Braun, with Roger Vignoles, piano. Faure (L'Hortus Chantrelles, Op 15); Massenet (Poems for Voice and Piano, Op 10) 3.00 The BBC Orchestra, with Christopher YOUNG, includes Stephen Kovacevich, piano, Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat, Symphony No 38 in E flat) 4.00 Spill of the Age Christopher Page looks at the Icelandic Eddas, a collection of stories about giants, elves, prophecies and visions. With musical interpretation by Sequenza (7) 5.00 Musical Machine, Tommy Pearson talks to freelance musicians who prefer the excitement of the unknown to a permanent job 6.15 In Tune, with Neil Nicolson, Grainger (Green Bushes); Nigel Westlake (Antarctica); Shostakovich (Suite No 1 for Jazz Band) 7.30 Vienna Old and New, Nicola Heywood Thomas introduces the last of three concerts given last year at the Point in Cardiff Bay, London. With Michael Collins, Strauss (Serenade Op 7); Schoenberg (Wind Quintet); Gottfried von Erism (Wind Quintet); Mozart (Serenade in E flat) 9.10 Stellan Vokstad: The Family, See Choice 9.30 The BBC Orchestra. A concert given at the 1995 International Society of Contemporary Music Festival in East Germany. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Peter Eötvös, with Maria Fialova, cello; Debussy (Jeux); Eötvös (Psychodrama); Henze (Symphony No 7) 10.45 Night Waves, with Richard Coles, the general editor of *The Norton Shakespeare*, on the British publication of the works. They discuss how a fuller historical examination of early-modern England can illuminate the best-known plays 11.30 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera (7) 12.30am Jazz Masters. Diplo Fairweather presents a session by the BBC Big Band featuring Andrew Cleynard, bass; John Donatson, piano; Chris Gantick, violin 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Mackay, includes Haydn (Stabat Mater in F, Op 50 No 5); Bartok (String Quartet, No 6); 5.00am Sequence

RADIO 4

4.45 Short Story: Umberto Verdi, Chimey Sweep, by Bernard MacLaverty. A bored housewife goes a chimney sweep as the answer to all her problems. 5.00 PM, with Chris Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 No Comment. Chris, Diana with Rosemary Leach and Nicola Paget. Victoria, with Isabel Hilton 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.30 File on Four. Major issues, changing attitudes and important events at home and abroad 8.00 Science News. Alan Lewis presents a review of the week's developments and discoveries in the world of science (7) 8.30 The New Naturalist: Playing the Game. Dr Gillian Nicolson asks the experts whether monogamy is a natural form of behaviour (44) (7) 9.00 In Touch, Peter White with news and information for the visually impaired 9.30 Kaleidoscope (7) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton 10.45 Book at Bedtime: One of Ours, by Wile Cather. Read by Ian Prior (212) (7) 11.00 Medusae. The week's events in the media with Vincent Harris (7) 11.30 A Night with... George Melly. Melly recalls performing and partying and his passion for fishing at night. With music from Cab Calloway and Mose Allison and words from Charles Dickens and Philip Larkin (7) 12.00 News and 12.30am approx Weather 12.30am The Late Show. High Five, by Nick Hornby. Read by Alan Davies (210) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

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Sicilian Voices
Radio 3, 9.10pm

The joy of radio is that it has remained a medium which is at its best when it does uncomplicated things. This series is an example: one person with a tape recorder goes to one place and returns with a word picture. The secret is to send the right person and in this case Joe Farrell has proved to be the man for the job. Tonight he looks at Sicily's links with the Cosa Nostra, not in an attempt at dramatic revelation but merely to show how endemic the Mafia is in Sicily. The master of factness is what impresses: ordinary Sicilians point out the sites of Mafia executions and buried corpses as if they were mildly interesting stone circles on Dartmoor. The underlying threat is thus made all the more real. Peter Baines

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newshour 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Anatomy of a Scandal 8.00 My Generation 8.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 A Cry in the Dark 9.30 Everydayman 10.00 World Service Report 10.15 The Making of Harriet 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On Screen 12.30pm Anatomy of Addiction 1.05 Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newshour 3.05 Culture 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sport 4.15 Performance 4.30 News in Games 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 The World Today 6.30 News in Games 6.45 Sport 7.30 One Planet 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 8.00 Newshour 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Meridian Live 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 10.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Station '97 1.00pm Lunchtime Concerts: Karl Deneke von Ottersdorf (Viola Concerto in F) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 7.00 Classic Newshour 7.30 Sonata. Tartin (Sonata in G minor, Devil's Trill) 8.00 Evening Concert. Prokofiev (Psalms of David); Leonard Bernstein (Chichester Psalms); 10.00 Michael Hepburn 2.00am Lunchtime Concerto (7)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' John 10.00 Graham Dean 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coope (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Randall Lee Rose

RADIO 3

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TENNIS

Courier's tensions surfacing

JIM COURIER was pushed to the limit by a dogged opponent and a swirling wind before winning 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 against Dominik Hrbaty, 19, of Slovakia, in 2½ hours in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday.

"His yelling and screaming reminded me of when I first came onto the tour," Courier said. "It helped motivate me. He didn't allow you to play safe and I'm just glad I've got through this first match after coming here from hard courts."

Courier, the No 13 seed, double-faulted three times on match point to lose the eighth game of the third set, but then won the tenth game, for the match, to love. Apart from his opening service game, it was the only other time he won a game to love. His next opponent will be Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, or Herman Gurny, of Australia.

Sergi Bruguera, like Courier, a former French Open champion, showed unaccustomed confidence at the net to beat Javier Sanchez, a fellow Spaniard, 6-4, 6-1. "I'm much fitter this year and have had some good hard-court results to give me confidence," he said.

He faces a possible third-round encounter with Thomas Muster, the world No 2 from Austria, who has won this tournament for the past two years and has a 12-3 record against Bruguera. Muster had a first-round bye and will play either Francisco Roig, of Spain, or Fabrice Santoro, of France, in the second round.

SWIMMING

Calleja appeals for calm waters

FROM CRAIG LORD IN GÖTTENBURG

THE celebrations will be short-lived for a world title and bronze medal for two of Dave Calleja's swimmers at the world short-course championships over the weekend — the coach is issuing an ultimatum: do it my way, or allow distractions to drive the most successful sports triangle in British swimming to divorce.

It is not that the Stockport coach is a killjoy, but, as he left the Scandinavium here — scene of triumph for James Hickman — writing articles

charges' prospects of Olympic titles in Sydney 2000. "This is a warning," Calleja said. "With James doing swim clinics, photo shoots, writing articles, giving interviews and making appearances — there's a lot of pressure there — his whole programme is being compromised."

"We've been better planned than other programmes and it has worked. I don't want anything to spoil that. I just don't want to get to 2000 and say 'if only'."

With Hickman having given up a university course to concentrate on swimming, coinciding with the arrival of Deryk Snelling as Britain's first national performance director, Calleja's situation is complicated further by a national plan of competition and training camps.

In January, Calleja and Hickman flew with other members of the national team to Australia. The experience was valuable for coach and swimmer, but Calleja was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: Smith had stayed at home to study.

Smith said: "When Dave was in Australia, I was run down and depressed. I was on the point of calling it a day. What keeps you there, though, is the gold medal in Sydney."

The experience perturbed Calleja, who now wants a period of stability at the Olympic pool, at Stockport, where attendants are sent off poolside when Hickman and Smith train because, Calleja says, "no one expects a company director to be working in his office while the hoovering's going on".



Hickman: writing articles

Hickman, world short-course champion over 200 metres butterfly, and Graeme Smith, who added a bronze medal over 1,500 metres freestyle to the more valuable Olympic bronze in Atlanta last year — Calleja uttered a Garboesque "we just want to be alone".

Having nurtured Smith and Hickman from boys into 21-year-olds who make a big noise in world swimming, Calleja says that it is now critical to issue a warning to the "circus of interested parties" who are damaging his

The budget is big, but it's not unlimited

The trouble with big, cinematic production values in television drama is that the viewer gets complacent, and forgets there's any sort of budgetary limit at all.

"What aren't we having a musical-hall scene?" I pouted last night. The 1990s hospital drama *Bramwell* (ITV) had returned, you see, with fabulous music, great editing and lighting, picturesque East End realism, and loads of fusion extras. One's job was understandably complete. So when David Calder (Robert Bramwell) announced an outing to the Music Hall, one greedily expected to see 400 Sunday-best peppy kings and queens in the audience, all singing along to a woman in a big hat in a mocked-up Hackney Empire. But strangely, no. Not a whiff of greasepaint. Even more disappointing was the last scene — Emma Redgrave (Eleanor) waving to her boyfriend

on a bustling, steamy, whistly station platform. And what was this? No train? Well, I ask you. "What do you want, blood?" Carlton could legitimately yell in the circumstances, and they would be right. Bramwell is the jewel in the crown: a good meaty costume drama (Lucy Gannon behind it, as usual) with scope for matters of life and death, love and loyalty, as well as regular speeches of more than five words. Kicking off the third series, last night's episode concerned casualties from the local brewery: a man and a boy had fallen into the masher, and were horribly burnt. Upright Eleanor abominated the brewery and refused an offered hand-out ("I find it hard to see how medicine and alcohol can ever be compatible"). Her pragmatic Dad, on the other hand, paid court to the brewery's pretty owner — a rich widow with a twinkle.

Jemma Redgrave has terrific

presence, and as a character, Eleanor is a real heroine — strong yet vulnerable, controlled yet fiery, clever, principled, brave. Last night she saved a couple of lives, made the questionable decision to sleep with her boyfriend, stayed up all night sweeping in a hearth, defied Mrs Costigan proudly in full paragraphs, battled through rain and umbrellas to the station, and superhumanly forgave the boyfriend before his departure for France. What a girl. She lives in the world of Jack the Ripper, but she's not scared of anybody.

When it boils down to it, the appeal of most popular telly is the depiction of fearlessness. We can watch other people be bold on our behalf — whether it's Anne Robinson on *Watchdog* or Eleanor in *Bramwell*. Between trips to the back door (is it locked? Have I already checked it?), we can feel our sinews

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

stiffened by someone else's resolve. Mrs Bernice Cohen is an unlikely heroine, but heroine she is. Channel 4's *Mrs Cohen's Money* sees this formidable smart little woman marching right up to the financial institutions and jabbing them in the soft underbelly. Last night, she challenged the world of insurance, and explained how insurance companies first scare

you into taking "critical illness" and "permanent health" policies and then don't honour them afterwards. It was a one-sided view, but a refreshing one. With the decline of the welfare state, she argued, people will increasingly rely on insurance companies to look after them in times of difficulty. As the biggest financial sector after banks, are they "morally ready" to do that?

The answer, of course, is no. They are just very good at finding chinks in our confidence, and reminding us of mortality. A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers defended the scare tactics of advertising — and he's right, it's true that people generally refuse to anticipate problems. But it's the oldest con trick in the world to sell against the client's need ("Bad feet? Going bald?"), regardless of whether the quick product is the appropriate remedy. The doubly clever thing about insurance is

that if you argue against it, you get caught up in a mad circular world which takes even more of your money. "Worried your insurance won't pay out? Don't lose sleep! Insure against it!"

Talking of people who don't anticipate problems, *The Entertainers* (Channel 4) has had to be pretty tactful in its first two episodes. This cheap documentary series, set in the North East, inhabits the grim, tacky world of the social clubs, and in particular the singers employed by Beverley Artisans. Which problem might have been anticipated? Well, that 14-year-old Darren, of the disc-beat group Grove Club, is too young to sing all the gigs. Wasn't that obvious? Apparently not. Darren's harmony parts are now taken by an older boy called Neil. It's tough out there in showbiz.

What is fascinating about *The Entertainers* is to see how small-

time success eats up people's lives just as much as big-time. Big-time is relative, in any case. Barry Solomon, we are informed, is a successful singer "on television, in summer seasons and in cabaret all over the world". So, he's damned successful, obviously. But when Barry says he's never at home, and that he's always too busy to attend funerals or weddings, it cruelly illustrates the way a career gets out of hand. If you're Tom Jones, such sacrifices are awful enough; but if you're not Tom Jones, they're tragic.

Meanwhile, the ambitious teenager Tara Lee took her first, untrained steps into the limelight at Cheriton Social Club in Newcastle. "Did it sound crap?" she coyly asked the agency man afterwards, "Doubtless hoping for a spluttering 'Of course not'!" But he thought about it. "Nowhere near," he said, unconvinced. "Nowhere near."

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (28377)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7048464)
- 9.05 Election Call Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, answers viewers' questions (5147919)
- 10.00 Style Challenge (52993)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (68735)
- 11.00 News (1) and weather (4327483)
- 11.05 The Really Useful Show (7) (5950174)
- 11.55 Snooker: World Championship. Dougie Donnelly presents the crucial action as Alan McManus concludes his first-round match with fellow Scot Billy Snodgrass. Nigel Bond begins his campaign against 22-year-old Stephen Lee from Trowbridge (3039358)
- 12.35pm Good Living (8477551)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (19532)
- 1.30 Regional News (50014735)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (14736241)
- 2.10 Snooker: World Championship. John Parrott concludes his match with Bradley Jones, the lowest-ranked player to qualify for the Crucible this year. Plus: Alan Roddick takes on Brian Morgan (4272483)
- 3.30 Mose and Mole (8314342) 3.35 Playdays (1) (871532) 3.55 Arthur (792544) 4.20 Julia Jekyll and Herbie Hyde (1) (7) (5957700) 4.35 Pirates (1) (7) (4551) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5782700) 5.10 The Tweenies (1) (5955241)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (14736241)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (206)
- 6.30 Regional News (1) (854464)
- 6.55 Election Broadcast: Liberal Democrat (53025)
- 7.00 Martin Compère: Holiday. Uncensored version of the comedian's two-part tour of America's beloved locations — San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands of Maui (6754)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Pauline and Nigel become increasingly concerned for the welfare of a friend (1) (445)
- 8.00 Children's Hospital. The staff treat a young boy who trapped the top of his finger in a door and a toddler who somehow got part of a toy telephone stuck up her nose (1) (2174)
- 8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Gary tries to keep his head as Yvonne takes charge and changes her career and Phoebe makes plans for their forthcoming marriage (1) (1209)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (843551)
- 9.50 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (53593)
- 10.00 Sportsworld. Osmond Lynam introduces highlights of the FA Cup semi-final replay between Chesterfield and Middlesbrough at Hillsborough (993754)
- 10.50 The Dirty Dozen (1987) starring Lee Marvin. Second World War drama about a group of death row prisoners who are signed up for a suicide mission. Directed by Robert Aldrich (8031813)
- 1.10am The Cheesecake. A spoof thriller written by Neil Simon and directed by Robert Moore (1153101)
- 2.40 Weather (8854205)

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Close Cinophiles (2042461) 6.25 Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment (2043366) 6.50 Handel's Messiah (9776593)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1) and signing (8828174) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (491929) 7.55 Blue Peter (1) (1) (504803) 8.20 Junior Jungle (1) (389822) 8.35 The Rascals (1) (9822251)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two: Study Ireland (60193) 9.30 Believe It or Not (2017025) 9.45 Watch (205280) 10.00 Teletubbies (50975) 10.30 Come Outside (2121087) 10.45 Science Zone (508483) 11.05 Space Ark (4315648) 11.15 Go for It (771485) 11.30 The Animated Shakespeare: The Tempest (2396) 12.00 See Hear! (1) (57629)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (14241) 1.00 Teaching Today (17174) 1.30 Testament: The Bible in Animation (64782) 2.00 Junior Jungle (1) (42788071)
- 2.10 The Village (6471577) 2.35 My Village (7524377) 2.40 The Beauty Spot (509716) 3.00 News (739848) 3.05 Campaign Roadshow (1) (9528483) 3.55 News: regional news and weather (840852)
- 4.00 Snooker: World Championship. John Parrott v Bradley Jones and Alan Roddick v Brian Morgan (3803)
- 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1/2) Will is shot by robbers on his way to a cash machine (1) (797648)
- 6.25 Heartbreak High (1) (357551)
- 7.10 Seven Wonders of the World. In the last of the series, the neuroscientist Professor Steven Pinker makes his personal selection (1) (642919)
- 7.40 Snooker: World Championship. John Higgins v Graham Horne. Plus: the conclusion of Nigel Bond v Stephen Lee (598483)
- 8.30 Food and Drink. Nick Naim and Jamie Lloyd-Owen have a 100-year-old prepare her birthday celebration (1) (2551)
- 9.00 Murder One. Sharon Rooney is called to the dock and a key witness in the Van Alkan case vanishes (1) (2532)
- 10.30 Election Broadcast: Conservative Party (1) (791648)
- 10.35 Newsnight (1) (596990)
- 11.30 Election Broadcast (814483)
- 11.35 Snooker: World Championship. Late-night round-up (1) (72261)
- 12.25am Weather (3834507)
- 12.30 Open University: The Learning Zone. Producing electricity (73365) 1.30 Hidden Power (77014) 2.00 A Study of Brazil (11526) 4.00 Using It in GNVQ (20781) 4.30 The Production of Goldens (12830) 5.00 Inside Europe (28782) 5.30 Film Production (95859)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (6325386)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (3264919)
- 9.55 Regional News (1) (2386006)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (98551)
- 10.30 This Morning (8174667)
- 12.00pm Regional News (4008754)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (9470648)
- 12.54 HTV Crime: The Super (79815071)
- 1.25 Shortland Street (9488657) 1.25 Home and Away (5477342) 1.30 Afternoon Live (5653272) 2.30 Vanessa (50210367) 2.50 Afternoon Live (5653283)
- 3.20 News (1) (7305938) 3.25 Regional News (1) (7304209)
- 3.30 Potomac Park (1) (6841919) 3.40 Wizardia (1) (9492174) 3.50 Bimble's Bucket (1) (9493533) 4.00 Scooby Doo (1) (597352) 4.15 Hey Arnold! (1) (866590) 4.40 Are You Afraid of the Dark? (891080)
- 5.10 The House. Following the transformation of a 21st-century Victorian house into a home for the 21st century (1237919)
- 5.40 News (1) and weather (940377)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (784174)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (833483)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (675332)
- 6.55 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (84193)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. The Windsors embark on a desperate search for Kelly (1) (1822)
- 7.30 Family Circus. Knapton's story the camera follows Knapton as she is reunited with her family in Africa after 30 years apart (613)
- 8.00 The Bill. A married man discovers that meeting a girl from a lonely hearts advert has unexpected results (1) (4342)
- 8.30 Loved by You. Kate and Michael reminisce about how they met. With John Gordon-Sinclair and Trevyn McDowell. Last in series (1) (8377)
- 9.00 Peak Practice. David treats a stubborn pilot. Will a fire at Eric's cottage ignite the flames of passion between him and Andrew? Last in series (1) (2071)
- 10.00 News (1) and weather (72984)
- 10.30 Regional News (1) (336342)
- 10.40 The Super (1991) with Joe Pecci and Vincent Gardenia. The landlord of a slum development is forced to experience life from his tenants' point of view. Directed by Rod Denery (59039716)
- 12.00am Dating the Enemy (4016205)
- 1.25 Stand and Deliver (8752728)
- 2.25 The Chart Show (5751897)
- 3.25 Coach (4600236)
- 3.50 Football Extra (1) (5362830)
- 4.30 The Time, the Place (1) (46566)
- 5.00 Heirloom (1) (22588)
- 5.30 News (82385)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
- 6.25 Central News (795700)
- 6.50-6.55 Liffeline (849822)
- 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (79815071)
- 12.55pm Collins and Mcneil's Movie Club (3041897)
- 12.50 Film: Night on the Town (824149)
- 2.40 In Focus (5432439)
- 3.25 Football Extra (2054656)
- 4.10 Central Jobfinder '97 (1506946)
- 5.20 Aslan Eye (2010859)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (4090735)
- 12.55 Home and Away (2775990)
- 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (70447990)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
- 6.00-6.55 Westcountry Live (458629)
- 7.30-8.00 Animal Passions (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)
- As HTV West except:
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1237919)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (784174)
- 6.25-6.55 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (792193)
- 7.30-8.00 The Parish (613)
- 10.40 Film: The Super (59039716)
- 1.25am Stand and Deliver (8752728)
- 2.25 The Chart Show (5751897)
- 3.25 Coach (4600236)
- 3.50 Football Extra (5362830)
- 5.00 Freecore (22588)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (4906342)
- 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (9488667)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1237919)
- 6.22 Anglia Weather (598984)
- 6.25-6.55 Anglia News (732193)
- 7.30-8.00 Homemaker (613)
- 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (427551)
- 10.45 Generation X (864803)
- 11.35 Midweek Kick-Off (981464)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (11087) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32483) 9.00 Bewitched (55261) 9.30 Film: The Teckman Mystery (45784025) 11.10 Australia Wild (4309445) 11.35 Extreme (3970025) 12.30pm Field Lake (59597) 1.00 Sky Mountain (3445045) 1.15 Pingu (1074731) 1.30 Film: Lady Godiva Rides Again (76580822) 3.15 All About Beers (8730716) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (735) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (342) 4.30 Taste of the Times (754) 5.00 5 Pump (8700) 5.30 Countdown (626) 6.00 Newyddion (308030) 6.05 Hens (625641) 6.40 Noan Ryan (60454) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (98261) 7.25 Noan Ryan (604728) 8.30 Cardfiddler (8451613) 10.05 The Simpsons (8451613) 10.30 Newsnight (398030) 10.55 Erolia (573907) 10.55 Dark Skies (8451613) 11.55 Party Election Broadcast (980807) 11.55 The Long Johns Election Special (844551) 12.10am Election Night Special (118217) 1.40-2.40 Hill Street Blues (4467878)

CHANNEL 4

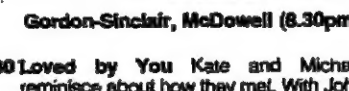
- 6.00am Sesame Street (11087)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (32483)
- 9.00 Bewitched (1) (7) (55261)
- 9.30 The Teckman Mystery (1954, b/w) starring John Justin and Margaret Leighton. A thriller about a man writing the biography of a dead pilot. Directed by Wendy Toye (45784025)
- 11.10 Australia Wild. Animal life in Oz (4309445) 11.35 Extreme (1) (7) (3970025) 12.30pm Light Lunch (98193) 1.30 Islanders. A 1938 GPO documentary (22358694)
- 1.50 Watch Your Stern (1960, b/w) A nautical comedy with Kenneth Connor, Noel Purcell and Leslie Phillips. Directed by Gerald Thomas (1) (42597848)
- 3.30 Collectors' Lot. Gerry Anderson on Lady Penelope and Parker from Thunderbirds (1) (735) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (342) 4.30 Countdown (1) (754) 5.00 Ricki Lake (1) (8700) 5.30 Per Rescue (1) (626)
- 6.00 Friends: The One with the Dozen Laugha. Phoebe has some bad news for Rachel about her Italian boyfriend (1) (78216)
- 6.25 Ant and Dec Unzipped with guests Eddie Izzard, Jo Brand, Simon Gregson and Jayne Middlemiss (780735)
- 6.55 Fresh Pop (646735)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (153731)
- 7.55 Thatcher's Children (1) (403071)
- 8.00 The Great Owl of the Mountains. The life cycle of the American Great Owl (1) (2884)
- 8.30 Brookside. Susanah is overcome with while Mick may have the answer to his financial problems (1) (4919)
- 9.00 Witness: Appointment with Doctor Death. A look at the work of the American Dr Jack Kevorjian. Last in series (1) (2223)
- 10.00 Election Broadcast: Conservative (1) (57803)
- 10.05 Blood Oath (1990) with Bryan Brown. A fact-based drama about an Australian army lawyer trying to bring Japanese war criminals to justice. Directed by Stephen Wallace (1) (13462613)
- 12.10am Midnight Special. Political discussion series (9182217)
- 1.40 Building Jack (1934, b/w) with Jack Hulbert, Ralph Richardson and Fay Wray. A vintage comedy thriller from the Bulldog Drummond series. Directed by Walter Forde (1) (7347168)
- 3.00 The Oracle (1952, b/w). A comedy with Michael Medwin as a reporter who discovers an oracle that predicts the future at the bottom of a well. Directed by Pennington Richards (1) (36356)
- 4.30 Riders of the Dawn. Spanish drama serial (1) (3368052)
- 5.30-6.00 Backdate (1) (1) (5990781)

CHANNEL 5

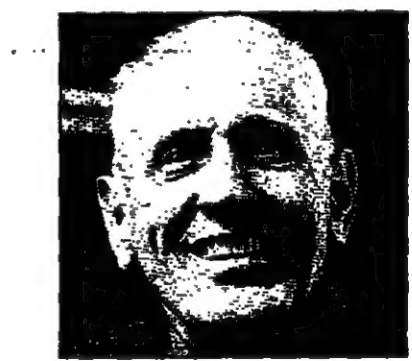
- 6.00am 5 News Early (7557716)
- 7.30 Havalakoo (2671714)
- 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (2295803)
- 8.30 WideWorld: Heaven's Delight. A study of the link between art and religion in 14th-century Italy. Focusing on the Palazzo Pubblico, seat of the government of Siena during the 1500's (2294174)
- 9.00 Espresso (5294025)
- 10.00 Exclusive (1) (6502174)
- 10.30 Hot Property (1) (1) (2214938)
- 11.00 Looze Chat show (9434822)
- 11.50 Double Espresso (45008667)
- 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (2289901)
- 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (8195006)
- 1.00 5 News Update (92039343)
- 1.05 Sunset Beach (204716)
- 2.00 5's Company (758311)
- 3.30 Baby of the Bride (1991) with Rue McClanahan and Ted Shackelford. A comedy about a woman and her young husband discovering she is pregnant at the same time as their daughter. Directed by Bill Bixby (1482445)
- 5.20 5's Company: Late Extra (14975071)
- 5.25 Election Broadcast: Liberal Party (1497432)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent Game show (1151208)
- 6.00 Whistle Quiz (1141822)
- 6.30 Family Affairs. Melanie is bored with living at home and suggests sharing a flat with Duncan. With Cordelia Bugeja (1) (1132174)
- 7.00 Exclusive Showbiz news (1053358)
- 7.30 Waterland. A study of the rainforest, which inhabits the lochs of the Scottish Highlands and islands (7286894)
- 7.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative Party (1) (5717919)
- 8.00 Fame and Fortune. Following designer John Rocha as he prepares to show his 1997 collection (1068006)
- 8.30 5 News (1974361)
- 9.00 Lone Wolf McQuade (1983) with Chuck Norris, David Carradine and Barbara Carrera. Action adventure about a maverick Texas Ranger with karate skills. Directed by Steve Carver (3277925)
- 10.50 Exclusive Extra (5886342)
- 11.00 The Jack Docherty Show. The guest is the former EastEnders turned singer Michelle Gayle (9341777)
- 11.40 The Comedy Show. Jo Brand, Julian Clary and Mark Thomas recall their early days as stand-up comedians (2349280)
- 12.10am Live and Dangerous. Including IndyCar and a motorsport round-up (16476511)
- 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5291781)
- 5.30-6.00 100 Per Cent (1) (5179762)



Professor Steven Pinker (7.10pm)



Gordon-Sinclair, McDowell (8.30pm)



Jack Kevorjian (9.00pm)



Cordelia Bugeja (6.30pm)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

- 6.00am Morning Glory (82193) 6.00 Ragle and Marnie. Live (81338) 10.00 Another World. (73754) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (80887) 12.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 1.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 2.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 3.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 4.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 5.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 6.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 7.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 8.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 9.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 10.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 11.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887) 12.00 The 100th Anniversary Special (80887)
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